

February 7 through April 24, 2016

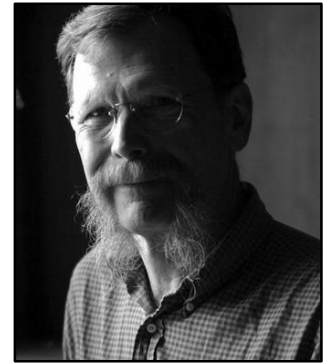
The Ghosts on the Outside porcelain sculpture by John Hachmeister of Lawrence, Kansas.



Oh, Annamie #1, 2014,
porcelain, glaze and pvd

What is display packaging but the ghost image of the thing you desire? And when the desired object is removed and used, what then is the package, but still that indistinct ghost, once the protector and now trash.

This concept is the foundation of the porcelain sculptures you see in this exhibition. The art was created in Jingdezhen, China utilizing the clays employed there for a thousand years. The glazes, including Ming Dynasty blue images were applied to slip cast forms based on clear packaging used in marketing toys, tools and household goods. The packaging was either picked up on the streets of Jingdezhen or purchased in local markets. Slip cast molds were then created from the altered packaging in order to create the sculptures. Some sculptures were fired without glazing to celebrate the ghostlike surface of this beautiful clay. The surfaces of other artworks were further developed utilizing traditional glaze techniques Jingdezhen is famous for. In other sculptures I introduced modern surface processes to close the conceptual circle; modern packaging, ancient clay, 600 year old glaze techniques, and then a final modern surface. To do this (following the addition of glazes and firing the pieces) I developed a system for blocking out parts of the surface and then had PVD, an industrial wear surfacing material, applied. PVD (positive vapor deposition) coatings are a very recent development. Combining this contemporary process with Ming Dynasty glaze and the clay valued and used for thousands of years compresses time and blends cultures. The finished pieces speak to the vibrant, ongoing visual cultural exchange happening in our lifetime.



John Hachmeister

Biography

John Hachmeister was born in North Central Kansas in 1949. Though he grew up on a ranch near Natoma, Kansas, part of each year was spent living with his maternal grandmother in Chicago. It was during these yearly visits to Chicago that Hachmeister was first exposed to sculpture; both modern and ancient. In 1969, while attending the University of Kansas, he changed his major from psychology to art. He became a

research assistant to Eldon Tefft, the founder of the International Sculpture Center, and exhibited a monumental outdoor sculpture during a Nation Sculpture Conference.

Hachmeister received a BFA from KU in 1972 while working as a commercial artist in Kansas City. In 1974, he received an MA from Kansas State University with course work in iron casting with Julius Schmidt at the University of Iowa. He then operated a fine art foundry in Kansas and created jewelry in New Mexico before purchasing 160 acres in eastern Kansas in 1978. On this property he constructed and continues to maintain studio spaces for the creation of ceramic, cast metal, wood and mixed media sculpture. In addition, he has created major earth works on this site.

While continuing to work as a studio artist, he completed course work and received an MFA from Kansas State University in 1986. In 1988 he formed a corporation and purchased the Garden of Eden in Lucas, Kansas. He was the first president of the corporation and continues to serve as co-curator of the site. In addition he has served as president of the Kansas Sculptors Association and been a board member on other prestigious arts organizations.

He is an Associate Professor at the University of Kansas and previously taught at the Kansas City Art Institute. He has exhibited art in well over one hundred shows including a mid-career retrospective at the Leedy-Voulikos Art Center in Kansas City, MO and liquid steel performative piece at Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ.

Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.