

GEORGE RODRIGUEZ  
*RITUAL VESSELS*



FOSTER/WHITE GALLERY  
SEATTLE 2023

# GEORGE RODRIGUEZ

## RITUAL VESSELS

2023

My latest body of work is a collection of ritual vessels. Vessels that contain history and future. Vessels that capture human emotion. Vessels that create cultural connection. Vessels for an unspecified ritual. These vessels take the shape of animals, figures, vases and relics.

When I think about clay, I think about the ritual of cutting my block, rolling slabs, gathering molds, and collecting my fork. I think about the different rituals I value and create for myself. I want to revert back to simplicity and let go of some material control. Go back to the transformation of glaze on clay. Go to a place of rediscovery.

As I observe my human vessel and the rituals I rely on, I think about the impressions clay makes on my body. I think about the stress, the joy, the cracked skin and the sensitivity of my fingertips. I invite the viewer to wonder about the rituals that create or transform your own human vessel, what you hold, and how that shifts with time.

*Two Headed Pot,*  
stoneware with underglaze  
and glaze,  
12.75 x 18.5 x 13 inches

Cover image:  
*Amigo Águila,*  
stoneware with underglaze  
and glaze,  
9.5 x 12.5 x 11 inches





*Amigo Jaguar,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
9.5 x 12 x 10 inches



*Amigo Quetzalcoatl,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
10 x 10 x 12.5 inches





*Two Headed Pot,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
12.75 x 18.5 x 13 inches



*Colima (South),*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
12.75 x 15.5 x 7 inches



*Corgi (North),*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
13.5 x 17 x 6.5 inches



*Fiesta (Southwest),*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
12.5 x 14 x 6.5 inches





*Basenji (West),*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
11.5 x 18.75 x 6 inches



*Anubis (Northeast),*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
15 x 15 x 5.5 inches



*Core (Southeast),*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
11.5 x 19.5 x 8 inches



*Canidae (Northwest),*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
15 x 15 x 5.5 inches





*Foo (East),*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
12 x 13 x 8 inches



*Green Crocodile Vessel,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
11.5 x 11.5 x 13 inches



*Red Bear Vessel,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
14.5 x 9 x 11 inches



*Blue Duck Vessel,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
11.75 x 9.5 x 16 inches





*Brown Horn Gopher Vessel,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
13 x 7.5 x 12 inches



*Abundant Jaguar Summer,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
30 x 27 x 20 inches



*Ascending Macaw Spring,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
29 x 21 x 21 inches





*Linked,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
24.5 x 18 x 8 inches





*Disjoined,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
25.75 x 14.5 x 8 inches



*Flaccid*,  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
22.5 x 15 x 9.75 inches



*Emerge,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
23.5 x 8 x 10 inches



### *Evening Ritual*

"After a long day in the studio, I decompress with a beer or a little Fernet in my favorite cup. I take this moment to reflect on the day and share space with my partner. Thank you for the purchase of these two cups. They were made in collaboration with Drew Nicklas and will be sold to you with a beer, shot of Fernet or Sparkling Water. Please take a moment to enjoy with me and a friend." – George

*Evening Ritual (two mugs, one set),  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
3.75 x 4.5 x 3.5 inches*





### *Morning Ritual*

"I start my day by setting the kettle on the stove and choosing a mug in which to have my coffee or tea. This morning ritual is a time to breathe deep and perk up. A ritual of connection to those around me and myself. Thank you for the purchase of this mug. It was made in collaboration with Drew Nicklas and will be sold to you with a coffee or tea in it. Please take a few moments to enjoy". – George

*Morning Ritual Mugs,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
3.75 x 4.5 x 3.5 inches each (approx)



*Morning Ritual Cups*  
 (6 drawings which correspond to the patterns on the mugs),  
 ink on paper,  
 4.75 x 4 inches each

# GEORGE RODRIGUEZ

## Education

- 2009 MFA Ceramics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- 2006 BFA Ceramics, University of Texas, El Paso, Texas

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 'Ritual Vessels,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA  
'El Zodíaco Familiar,' San Juan Islands Museum of Art, Friday Harbor, WA
- 2022 'El Zodíaco Familiar,' Sarah Spurgeon Gallery, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA
- 2021 'El Zodíaco Familiar,' Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA
- 2020 'La Flor, El Nicho, y sus Memorias,' Bonovitz Gallery, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA  
'Urban Guardians,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2019 'George Rodriguez: Embellished Narratives,' Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Willamette University, Salem, OR  
'Reflect and Gather,' MADArt, Seattle, WA
- 2018 'NosotrUS: Mexican-American reflections on Identity,' Mexican Cultural Institute, Consulado de Mexico en Seattle, Seattle, WA  
Seattle Art Fair, Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA  
'Guardian,' Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Bainbridge Island, WA
- 2017 'Where is Our Exile?' Stanlee & Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX  
'Sanctuary,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2016 'Beneath the Surface,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2014 'Here After,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2012 'In Costume,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA  
'End of the Trail,' Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA  
'Instrumental Divide,' Rainier Tower, Jeffrey Moose Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2011 'GEORGE,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA  
'Symbiotic/Parasitic,' KOBO at Higo, Seattle, WA
- 2009 'The Belle of the Ball,' Ceramic Metal Arts Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2006 'Recess,' Memorial Triangle, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX

## Group Exhibitions

- 2023 'Beauty and the Unexpected,' National Museum, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2022 'Belonging,' Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA  
'Not Your Average Bear,' Visions West Contemporary, Denver, CO  
'Body Image,' E Street Gallery, Sacramento, CA  
'Beauty and the Beast,' Blue Spiral 1, Asheville, NC
- 2021 'Día de Muertos- A Time to Grieve and Remember,'  
National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, IL  
'Las Aves: Birds in the Art of and Inspired by Mexico,'  
Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Salisbury, MD  
'Hopefully Tomorrow,' Brockway Center for Arts and Technology,  
Brockway, PA
- 2020 'We are Clay,' Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, MD  
'Democracy 2020: Craft & the Election,' Craft in America Center,  
Los Angeles, CA  
'The Clay Studio National 2020,' The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA  
'Reflections,' Kirkland Arts Center, Kirkland, WA
- 2019 'Emerging Artist Showcase,' NCECA Exhibition Hall, Minneapolis, MN  
'Cultural Couriers,' Eutectic Gallery, Portland, OR  
'Luminaries,' Museum of Northwest Art, La Connor, WA
- 2018 'Clay & Politics,' Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA  
'Stories of Identity: Contemporary Chicana/o artists of Seattle,'  
Northwest Folklife Festival, Art Not Terminal Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2017 'Convergence: Contemporary Mex-Xicano Art in the PNW,'  
Schack Art Center, Everett, WA  
'50 Years of Pottery Northwest,' National Council on Education for the  
Ceramic Arts, Portland, OR
- 2016 'Artist Trust 30th Birthday Exhibit,' Artist Trust, Seattle, WA  
'#30 Dia de los Muertos: Journey of the Soul,'  
National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, IL  
'Offering,' Gallery One Visual Art Center, Ellensburg, WA  
Koch Gallery, Vashon Center for the Arts, Vashon Island, WA  
'Beyond Aztlán: Mexican and Chicana/o Artists in the Pacific Northwest,'  
Museum of Northwest Art, La Conner, WA
- 2015 SOFA Exposition, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL  
Samsøen collaborative sculptural installation with Mark Cooper,  
Seattle Art Fair, Paul Allen Living Computer Museum, Seattle, WA

- 'FEAT: Fellowship Exhibit Artist Trust,' Galvanize, Seattle, WA
- 'Out of Sight,' King Street Station, Seattle, WA
- 'Ceramics Invitational: Northwest Clay,' Traver Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 'Art in True Fashion,' Abmeyer + Wood Fine Art, Seattle, WA
- 2014 'Tree of Life,' Helen S. Smith Gallery, Green River Community College, Auburn, WA
- 2013 'Mostra/UGA,' Palazzo Vagnotti, Cortona, Italy
- 'Cute,' Blindfold Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 'Maneki Neko: Japan's Beckoning Cats- from Talisman to Pop Icon,' Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA
- 'Beyond the Brickyard,' Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT
- 'Speaks Volumes,' SPCS Gallery, Seattle Design Center, Seattle, WA
- 2012 'Flattery,' The Nicklas Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 'Clay Lives Here,' NCECA, Seattle Design Center, Seattle, WA
- 2012 'Stations of the Cross,' St. James Cathedral, Seattle, WA
- 'The Potter and the Urn,' Greg Lundgren Monuments, Seattle, WA
- 2011 '360 Collaboration,' Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA
- 2010 'MADArt Redux,' Foster White Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2009 'MADArt Windows Exhibition,' Madison Park Shops, Seattle, WA
- '2009 University of Washington MFA Thesis Exhibition,' Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 'Mentoring,' SAM Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 'Ouch My Eye Annual International Invitational,' Ouch My Eye Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 'International Cup,' The Clay Studio of Missoula, Missoula, MT
- 2008 'Heads(dis) Embodied,' Kirkland Arts Center, Kirkland, WA
- 'Flash Forward: Coupling VI,' Ouch My Eye Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2007 'Reality and Fantasy – the art of play,' Gallery at Mars Hill, El Paso, TX
- 'From the Ground Up XXIII,' Las Cruces Museum of Art, Las Cruces, NM
- 'Contenido Neto (a rational play on the possibilities of an intercultural world),' 301 W. Overland, El Paso, TX
- 2006 'The Value Show,' 910 Texas St., El Paso, TX
- 'Action of the Heat,' Union Gallery, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX
- 2005 'National Society for Arts and Letters Exhibit,' Glass Gallery, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX
- 'Fresh Talent '05,' Crossland Gallery, El Paso, TX
- 2004 'Art from the Epicenter,' Project Space, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX



## Awards

- 2021 2nd Place, Virginia Groot Foundation, Lake Forrest, IL
- 2019 Emerging Artist, National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, Minneapolis. MN
- 2018 Bernie Funk Artist Exploration Scholarship, Pratt Art Center, Seattle, WA  
Finalist, Betty Bowen Award, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA
- 2016 MoNA Luminary Award, Patty Warashina Award for Emerging Artist, Museum of Northwest Art, La Conner, WA
- 2015 Fellowship, Artist Trust, Seattle, WA
- 2011 Grants for Artist Projects (GAP), Artist Trust, Seattle, WA  
Resident Artist Project (RAP) Grant, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA
- 2009 Bonderman Travel Fellowship, University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
Individual Artist Projects Grant, 4 Culture, Seattle, WA  
smART Ventures, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, Seattle, WA
- 2007 Graduate Opportunities & Minority Achievement Program Research Assistantship, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- 2006 Regina Brown Undergraduate Student Fellowship, National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, Erie, CO  
New Mexico Potter's Guild Award, Potter's Guild of Las Cruces, Las Cruces, NM  
Award of Excellence for Sculpture Student, University of Texas, El Paso, TX
- 2005 Catherine Crowell Belk Art Scholarship, University of Texas, El Paso, TX
- 2004 Manuel Acosta Memorial Art Scholarship, University of Texas, El Paso, TX

## Publications + Press

- 2021 Camarata, Katherine. "El Zodíaco Familiar Blends Chinese Zodiac with Mexican and Chicane Culture." The Observer, Central Washington University. Nov 11, 2021.  
Carey, Brainard. "George Rodriguez." WYBCX Yale Radio. Yale University, Museum of Non-Visible Art, Oct 22, 2021.  
Sudermann, Hannelore. "Curiosity & Clay." University of Washington Magazine. June 2021 Issue.  
Perez, Daniel. "UTEP Alumnus 'Figures' Art Can Build Inclusivity." UTEP Alumni Magazine. Spring 2021. 45.
- 2020 'George Rodriguez,' Craft In America. 'Storytellers' episode, in collaboration

- with Public Broadcasting System (PBS), December 11, 2020.  
 Cole, Karl 'Sculpting Cultural Connections' School Arts Magazine,  
 May 2020 pages 23-26
- 2019 Johnson, Jennifer. 'Museum welcomes Spanish speakers to new ceramics exhibit,' Willamette University News. April 23.  
 'Rodriguez at MadArt + More,' University of Washington School of Art + Art History + Design, April 6  
 Keimeg, Jasmyne 'Larger Than Life Ceramic Wonders at Reflect and Gather,' The Stranger Art Slog, May 17
- 2018 Perez de la Rosa, Enrique. 'Sculptor George Rodriguez celebrates and transcends his Mexican heritage,' Crosscut. August 2.  
 Gyuro, Lisa. 'UW Alumnus to be Featured at the Seattle Art Fair,' UW Daily. July 27.  
 Steward Foster, Anne. '5 Seattle Artists You Should Know,' Seattle Business. July.  
 'Bainbridge Island Museum of Art Spring Exhibitions,' City Arts. March.  
 Barr, Amanda. 'George Rodriguez: Sanctuary.' Ceramics Monthly. February. pp 54-56  
 Shafkind, Erin. L. 'The Venus: A Legacy in Clay.' Ceramics Monthly. February. pp 57-58
- 2016 'Emerging Artist 2016: George Rodriguez,' Ceramics Monthly. May. pp.54  
 Upchurch, Michael. 'There and back again- a sculptor's trip around the world,' Seattle Times. April 12. pp. 25  
 Kangas, Matthew. 'George Rodriguez- Profile,' Art Ltd. March. pp 72.  
 Erickson, Anne. 'Seattle ceramic artist makes bigger than life sculptures,' King 5- Evening. February 2. 2.24s.  
 Graves, Jen. 'Are George Rodriguez's Heads Alive?' The Stranger SLOG. April 19, 2016
- 2015 Hanus, Julie. 'Let it Grow' American Craft. August/September 2015. pp 48-57.  
 Harnetty, Jennifer. 'Studio Visit: Deborah Schwartzkopf and George Rodriguez.' Ceramics Monthly. March 2015. pp 30-34.
- 2014 Smith, Nan. '500 Figures in Clay Volume 2.' Lark Books. Sterling Publishing Co. 2014.
- 2013 Upchurch, Michael. 'Flower Power with a Philosophical Twist.' The Seattle Times.
- 2012 'Seattle Artist ReDesign the Waterfront.' The Stranger. Seattle Art & Performance Fall Issue. September 5, 2012: p. 13.  
 Webb, Dan & Matthew Offenbacher. Jeffry Mitchell – Closed Fist Open

Hand. 'Joy in Repetition, 1991' La Norda Press. 2012.

Davis, Branglen. 'Local Rock Stars of Clay.' Seattle Magazine. March 2012.

Kangas, Matthew. 'Symbolic/Parasitic.' Ceramics Monthly. February 2012.  
pp 62-63.

2011 Faigin, Gary. 'Heads Up: George Rodriguez at Foster White.'  
Artdish Magazine. November 25, 2011.

'Famous Georges make for fun sculpture.' Narr. Gary Faigin & Jeannie

Yandel. KUOW Presents. 94.9 KUOW Seattle NPR. November 21, 2011.

'George.' Sheila Hartley. Art Talker. 98.1 KING FM. November 5, 2011.

Upchurch, Michael. 'Storefronts Seattle puts art and life in empty retail  
spaces.' Art Review. The Seattle Times. August 25, 2011.

2009 Lambert. Ken. 'Ceramic work is music to your eyes.' The Seattle Times.  
June 6, 2009.

Stoesz, David. 'If it walks like art...' Seattle Weekly. June 02, 2009.

2008 Norris, Molly. 'Heads (dis) Embodied.' Art Access, Volume 17. June 2008,  
pp 10-11.

Farr, Sheila. 'Here's a heads-up for a must-see.' The Seattle Times.  
May 16, 2008. p. 41

## Professional Experience

2019-2022 Artist in Residence, Tyler School of Art +Architecture, Ceramics  
Department, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

2019 NCECA (National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts) Annual  
Conference, Emerging Artist Talk, October 21

2017 Instructor, North Seattle College, Seattle, WA  
Visiting Lecturer, Sitka Fine Arts Camp, Sitka, AK  
Instructor, Seward Park Clay Studio, Seattle, WA

2016 Instructor, GAGE Academy of Art, Seattle, WA  
Instructor, Sculpture Week, GAGE Academy of Art, Seattle, WA

2014 Visiting Lecturer, School of Art, University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
Visiting Lecturer, Sitka Fine Arts Camp, Sitka, AK  
Selection Committee Member, Bonderman Travel Fellowship, University of  
Washington, Seattle, WA

Instructor, Moshier Community Clay Studio, Burien, WA

Instructor, Seward Park Clay Studio, Seattle, WA

Instructor, Redmond Clay Studio, Redmond, WA

2013 Visiting Lecturer, Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia (UGA)  
Studies Abroad Program, Cortona, Italy

- Visiting Lecturer, Sitka Fine Arts Camp, Sitka, AK
- Lecture, Pecha Kucha: Luck of the Draw (May 3, 2013), Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA
- Selection Committee Member, Bonderman Travel Fellowship, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- Selection Committee Member, Grants for Artist Project (GAP), Artist Trust, Seattle, WA
- Instructor, Teen Art Studio, GAGE Academy of Art, Seattle, WA
- 2012 Visiting Lecturer, Green River Community College, Auburn, WA
- Visiting Lecturer, School of Art, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- Lecture, NCECA Invitational (Feb 3, 2012), Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA
- Selection Committee Member, Bonderman Travel Fellowship, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- Selection Committee, Tile Heritage Foundation Prize, Artisan Tile NW, Seattle, WA
- Artist in Residence and Instructor, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA
- Invited Artist, Set the Table, Olympic Sculpture Park, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA
- 2011 Visiting Lecturer, School of Art, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- Visiting Instructor, Nathan Hale High School, Seattle, WA
- 2009 Instructor, Kirkland Art Center, Kirkland, WA
- Graduate Student Teaching, School of Art, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

## Collections

- National Museum, Stockholm, Sweden
- Kansas City International Airport, Kansas City, MO
- Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC
- Bainbridge Arts Museum, Bainbridge Island, WA
- Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA
- Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Willamette University, Salem, OR
- MadArt, Seattle, WA
- National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, IL
- Renwick Gallery at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC
- Sam and Anne Davis, El Paso, TX
- Swedish Medical Center, Seattle, WA
- University of Washington, Seattle, WA



*Ascending Macaw Spring,*  
stoneware with underglaze and glaze,  
29 x 21 x 21 inches

FOSTER/WHITE GALLERY

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