

Paul Dresang



In his early ceramic work Paul Dresang produced fully functional vessels, an approach he abandoned once he started to work with porcelain in 1985. With this change, he began to explore the surreal images he could create with ceramics. He is known for sculpting teapots enclosed in "unzipped" ceramic "bags." This motif emerged from the artist's interest in the opposing ideas of constraint and breaking free.



This theme later led him to incorporate other common objects such as children's toys or household wares. Dresang focuses his work on everyday items because he hopes that they will evoke a memory or experience, providing viewers a personal connection to his sculptures. Dresang's accomplished raku fired porcelain provokes his audience to reconsider their visual and experiential assumptions: "I choose to seduce them through the intricate, formal, trompe l'oeil details of the work. In a way they have to risk themselves, especially if they share their observations. Anyone who views my work and cares about it cannot avoid investing something of themselves in the process."

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Education

1974 MFA, Ceramics, University of Minnesota
BFA, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

Selected Exhibitions

2010 Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA
2009 Duane Reed Gallery, St. Louis, MO
NCECA National Conference, Tempe, AZ
2008 SOFA New York, Duane Reed Gallery
2007 Duane Reed Gallery, St. Louis, MO
SOFA Chicago, Duane Reed Gallery
2006 The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
SOFA New York, Duane Reed Gallery
Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, MD
Traveling Exhibit, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT
Cinema Gallery, Urbana, IL
2005 NCECA, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, MD
Contemporary Art Center of Peoria, Peoria, IL
Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA
Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, NM
2004 International Art Teapot Exhibition, Tai Pei, Taiwan
Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN

Public Collections

The Eccles Museum, Logon, UT
The Frederick R Wiesman Museum of Art
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
The Mint Museum of Craft and Design, Charlotte, NC
The Racine Art Museum, Racine, WI
The Renwick Gallery, National Museum of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
Southern Illinois University, Permanent Collection, Edwardsville, IL
The Tai Pei County Ceramics Museum, Tai Pei, Taiwan