

## Tsehai Johnson

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born: Deder, Ethiopia

### Education

- 1999 M.F.A. in Ceramics, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
1993 B.F.A. in Ceramics, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA  
Graduated with Departmental Honors  
1989 B.A. in Art History, Reed College, Portland, OR  
Thesis: *The Kariye Camii of Istanbul; Its Architecture and Decoration*

### Exhibitions

- 2014 *\*FLOW*, NCECA Invitational Exhibit, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI  
*Making Contact*, MSU Faculty Exhibition, Center for Visual Art, Denver, CO
- 2013 *Mesmerize*, Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts, Spring, TX  
*Fluent Circumvention*, solo exhibit, Plus Gallery, Denver, CO  
*\*Draft Urbanism*, Biennial of the Americas, McNichols Building, Denver, CO
- 2012 *Melissa Haviland & Tsehai Johnson*, Univ. of Wyoming Art Gallery, Laramie, WY  
*MSU Faculty Exhibition*, Emmanuel Gallery, Denver, CO  
*Seven Reconsider Ceramics*, Schneider Museum of Art, Southern Oregon Univ., Ashland, OR  
*Strange Beauty*, IDEA Gallery, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO
- 2011 *The Plate Exchange*, a dining performance, 910Arts Gallery, Denver, CO  
*\*Overthrown: Clay Without Limits*, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO  
*Collective Nouns*, Metro. State Faculty Exhibit, Center for Visual Arts, Denver, CO  
*Sensual Ceramics*, Carbondale Arts Center, Carbondale, CO  
*\*Do It!*, Philip J. Steele Gallery, Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, Lakewood, CO
- 2010 *Table Lessons*, a dining performance, Platteforum, Denver, CO (with Biennial of the Americas)  
*Sustenance/Sustain*, Residency Exhibit, Platteforum, Denver, CO (with Biennial of the Americas)  
*\*Artist's Footprints*, Redline Gallery, Denver, CO (in conjunction with Biennial of the Americas)  
*The Other F-word*, Fine Arts Gallery, Univ. of Minnesota-Morris, Morris, MN  
*\*Who is Afraid of Ornament?*, Nurture Art Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Artaxis.org: An Evolving Independent Network of Artists*, Cheltenham Art Center, Cheltenham, PA (in conjunction with NCECA 2010)  
*\*Biennale Internationale de Vallauris*, Magnelli Museum, Vallauris, France  
*Roots and Wings*, Baltimore Clayworks Gallery, Baltimore, MD  
*Speaking of Clay*, Arts Students League Gallery, Denver, CO
- 2009 *Spitting Image: Ten Artists Consider Their Children*, Singer Gallery, Denver, CO  
*\*Continental Divide* (NCECA exhibit) Arvada Center for the Arts, Arvada, CO  
*Pure Pleasure*, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Boulder, CO  
*Finding Water*, Distill Group, I Gamla Kaupfelagshusinu, Skagastrond, Iceland
- 2008 *Disorderly*, Solo Exhibit, Plus Gallery, Denver, CO  
*Splendid*, University Galleries, Texas State Univ., San Marcos, TX  
*Engendered Space*, SCA Contemporary Art, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
*Harmony in Clay*, Manhattanville College Art Gallery, Purchase, NY  
*Seven Deadly Sins*, Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, NM  
*Beyond Titillation*, Lawton Gallery, Univ. of Wis., Green Bay  
*The Veil: Visible and Invisible Spaces*, (traveling to multiple venues, 2008-present)  
-Dairy Center For the Arts, Boulder, CO  
-Univ. of Arkansas-Fayetteville, Fine Arts Center Gallery, Fayetteville, AR  
-Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Union Art Gallery, Milwaukee, WI  
-Alexey von Schlippe Gallery of Art, University of Conn. at Avery Point  
-Indiana Univ. East Art Galleries, Bloomington, IN  
-Drury University Art Gallery, Springfield, MO  
-DePauw University, Richard E. Peeler Art Center, Greencastle, IN  
-California State University - Dominguez Hills, Compton, CA

- CAS Galleries, Kean University, Union, New Jersey
- Santa Clara University, de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara, CA
- Bartlett Center for the Visual Arts, Oklahoma St. Univ., Stillwater, Oklahoma
- 2007 Plus Gallery at Miami Art, Miami, FL  
**Pattern Recognition**, Foothills Arts Center, Golden , CO  
*\*The Knitting of Time*, Distill Group, Casa de la Culture, B. Carrion, Quito, Ecuador  
*Luring*, Distill Group, Urban Institute of Contemporary Art, Grand Rapids, MI
- 2006 **Misdemeanor**, Spaces Gallery, Cleveland, Ohio  
**Sampling**, Solo Exhibit, Plus Gallery, Denver, CO  
*\*The Knitting of Time*, Distill Group, Reyzyanesbaer Art Museum, Reyzyanesbaer, Iceland  
**The Best of Colorado**, DIA Concourse Gallery, Denver, CO  
**Plus Gallery's Unentitleds**, Object and Thought Gallery, Denver, CO  
**Sculpture in Clay**, Museum of Outdoor Arts, Englewood. CO  
**The Pleasure of Dessert**, Harvey/Meadows Gallery, Aspen, CO
- 2005 **Fields**, Solo Exhibit, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Boulder, CO  
**Trading Voices**, Arvada Center for Arts, Arvada, CO  
**The Slipcast Object**, Denver Airport, Denver, CO (juror: Richard Notkin-prize recipient)  
*\*NCECA 2005 Clay National*, Ctr. for Art and Visual Cult., UMBC, Baltimore, MD (at NCECA 2005)  
**Terra Sutra II**, Montage Gallery, Baltimore, MD (at NCECA 2005)  
**American Clay Sculpture**, Gallery 405, Baltimore, MD (at NCECA 2005)  
**Evocative Implements**, Baltimore Clayworks Gallery, Baltimore, MD
- 2004 **The Slipcast Object**, Eleanor Bliss Ctr. for the Arts, Steamboat Spgs., CO (juror: Richard Notkin)  
**Anomaly**, Fort Collins Museum of Contemporary Art, Fort Collins, CO  
**Group Show 2**, Studio Aiello, Denver, CO (awarded 3D Prize)  
**Steamin'**, Gallery Materia, Scottsdale, AZ  
**Re:Invented Contemporary American Ceramics**, Sangre de Christo Arts Center, Pueblo, CO  
**15th San Angelo Nat. Ceramic Competition**, San Angelo Museum of Fine Art, San Angelo TX  
**Edify**, Emmanuel Gallery, Denver, CO (Metro State Faculty Exhibit)  
**Clay Mechanics**, Midland Art Market, Indianapolis, IN (at NCECA 2004)  
**All Fired Up: A Contemporary Ceramics Experience**, Reed Whipple Cult. Center Gallery, Las Vegas NV
- 2003 **ANTHOLOGY**, Metro Center for the Visual Arts, Denver, CO  
*\*World Ceramic Biennale 2003 Korea*, Icheon, Korea  
**Models**, Carson-Masuoka Gallery, Denver, CO
- 2002 **Metro State Faculty Exhibit**, Emmanuel Gallery, Denver, CO  
**Restroom: Privacy and Consciousness**, Mills Gallery, Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA  
**Regarding Gloria**, White Columns, New York City, NY  
**ANA 31**, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT  
**Counting**, Distill Group, Hafnarborg Cultural Center, Hafnarfjordur, Iceland  
**Rocky Mountain Biennial**, Fort Collins Museum of Cont. Art, Fort Collins, CO  
**Colorado Clay 2002**, Foothills Art Center, Golden CO (Received Award)  
**Colorado 2002**, Colorado Springs Fine Art Center, Colorado Springs, CO (Received Merit Award)  
**Terra Sutra, 21st Century Erotic Ceramics**, Incubator Gallery, Kansas City, MO, (in conjunction with NCECA 2002)
- 2001 **Eros: The Art of Love**, Core New Art Space, Denver, CO (curator: Robin Rule)  
**Porcelain Revisited**, Vermont Clay Center, Waterbury Center, VT (curator: Julia Galloway)  
**Colorado Clay 2001**, Foothills Art Center, Golden, CO (juror: Wayne Higby)  
**Distill**, ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2000 **Y2Klay**, Buddy Holly Center, Lubbock, Texas, (juror: Jaime Walker)  
(Awarded Juror's Prize)  
*\*Focus on Function*, Katherine Nash Gallery, Univ. of Minn., Minneapolis, MN (jurors: Linda Sikora and Sandy Simon)  
**New Mexico Clay 2000**, Traveling Exhibit  
-Harwood Art Center, Albuquerque, NM

- Santa Fe Clay Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
- House of Taos, Taos, NM
- \***Exhibition of the Sixth Taiwan Golden Ceramics Award**, Taipei Ceramics Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
- First 20 Years**, Baltimore Clayworks Gallery, Baltimore, MD
- Emerging Artists of the US**, Vermont Clay Center, Waterbury Center, VT
- In Particular**, Drive Up Gallery, Rocky Mtn. College of Art & Design, Denver, CO
- Three Views of Use**, UMC Gallery, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
- 1999 **Artist's Choice**, Richard Levy Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
- appetite**, University Galleries, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO (MFA exhibit)
- Countdown**, John Sommers Gallery, Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- 1998 **New Generation**, Shaw-Guido Gallery, Pontiac, MI
- 1997 **Sugar**, Silver Square Lofts, Denver, CO
- In the Service of Daily Life**, Dudley Gallery, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
- 1996 **Steeped in Tradition- Teapot Invitational**, Ariana Gallery, Royal Oak, MI
- \*Strictly Functional**, Market House Craft Center, Lancaster, PA
- Baltimore Clayworks Now**, Sybil Building Gallery, Rochester, NY
- 1995 **Functional and Non-Functional Ceramics**, Dundalk, Gallery, Baltimore, MD
- Currents '95**, Lill Street Gallery, Chicago, IL (in conjunction with SOFA Chicago)
- LOTS A CLAY V**, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
- Contemporary Clay**, Chesapeake Gallery, Harford, MD
- 1994 **In.form.al Function**, Baltimore Clayworks Gallery, Baltimore, MD
- Scents and non-Scents**, Signature Galleries, Boston, MA
- A Garden Party**, Baltimore Clayworks Gallery, Baltimore, MD
- Up From the Ground, Down From the Sun**, Essex Comm. College, Essex, MD
- exhibition catalogue

### Teaching Experience

- 2011-present Assistant Professor of Art  
Metropolitan State University of Denver, Denver, CO
- 2009-2011 Visiting Assistant Professor of Art and Ceramics Area Coordinator  
Metropolitan State University of Denver, Denver, CO
- 2009 Lecturer, Ceramics, Dept. of Art and Art History, University of Colo., Boulder, CO
- 2008 Adjunct Professor, Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, Lakewood, CO
- 2008 Adjunct Professor, University of Denver, Denver, CO
- 2004-07 Lecturer, Ceramics, Dept. of Art and Art History, University of Colo., Boulder, CO
- 2002-04 Visiting Assistant Professor of Art, and Ceramics Area Coordinator  
Metropolitan State College of Denver, Denver, CO
- Sum 2001 Instructor, Ceramics, Dept. of Fine Art, University of Colo., Boulder, CO
- 1999-2000 Adj. Assistant Professor, Ceramics, Dept. of Art and Art History, Univ. of  
New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- Sp1997 Graduate Instructor, Basic Sculpture, Dept. of Fine Art, Univ. of Colo., Boulder, CO
- Fa1996 Graduate Instructor, Handbuilding, Dept. of Fine Art, Univ. of Colo., Boulder, CO

### Professional Experience

- 2014 *Making Contact in Conversation*, artist talk, Center for Visual Arts, Denver, CO
- 2013 Residency, Zentrum Fur Keramik, Berlin, Germany
- 2013 Artist Resident with students in ArtLab, Platteforum, Denver, CO
- 2013 Visiting Lecturer and Artist, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY
- 2011 Symposium, "Overthrown: The State of Contemporary Ceramics" Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO
- 2011 Exhibition Juror, Nature: Working, 910Arts, Denver, CO
- 2010 Visiting Artist/Lecturer, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY
- 2010 Biennial Resident, Platteforum, Denver, CO
- 2009 Residency, Nes Artist Residency, Skagastrond, Iceland
- 2008 Visiting Lecturer, Metropolitan State College, Dept. of Art and Art History, Denver, CO

2008 Visiting Artist, Visiting Artist Program, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
 2007 Visiting Lecturer, Addis Ababa University, Dept. of Art, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
 2007 Visiting Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI  
 2007 Funded Residency, Canserrat Center for the Arts, Le Bruc, Spain  
 2006 Funded Residency, Watershed Center of Ceramic Arts, Maine  
 2005 *Art Boundaries*, Lecture/Panel, Boulder Museum of Cont. Art, Boulder, CO  
 2003 H. Kottler Memorial Funded Residency, Watershed Center of Ceramic Arts, Maine  
 2002 Presenter, Slide Jam, Museum of Contemporary Art-Denver, Denver, CO  
 2002 Panelist-Eroticism as Liberation in Ceramics, NCECA Conf., Kansas City, MO  
 1999 Visiting Lecturer, Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM  
 1999 Gallery Talk, John Sommers Gallery, Albuquerque, NM  
 1997-99 Graduate Assistant to the Visiting Artist Program, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
 1999 Visiting Lecturer, Red Rocks Comm. College, Lakeview, CO  
 1993-96 Resident Artist, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, MD  
 1994 Visiting Artist, Montessori School of Baltimore, MD  
 1995 Technical Assistant to Anjelica Pozo

### Catalogues, Articles, Reviews

Article, "All the World's a Stage", Edie Adelstein, CS Independent, Dec. 1-7, 2011  
 Exhibit Review, "Claymation", Michael Paglia, *Westword*, July 21-27, 2011  
 Exhibit Review, "From Porcelain Forests to Pre-Columbian Pubic Covers (By Way of Your Grandmother's Tea Set)", Holly Hunt, *California Literary Review*, July 7, 2011  
 Exhibit Review, "Clay Goes Out on a Limb with DAM's 'Overthrown' Exhibit", Kyle MacMillan, *The Denver Post*, July 19, 2011  
 Review, "In Denver, Local Art Finds Room at the Inn" Kyle MacMillan, *The Denver Post*, May 28, 2011  
 Performance Preview, "Night and Day", Michael Paglia, *Westword*, July 26- August 1, 2010  
 Exhibit Review, "Who's Afraid of Ornament?", Jordan Troeller, *Artforum.com*, 2010  
 Exhibit Review, "Plus Summer", Amelia Ishmael, *Review: Mid-America's Visual Art Magazine*, Oct. 2008  
 Exhibit Review, "Solo Efforts Pay Off", Kyle MacMillan, *The Denver Post*, August 15, 2008  
 Exhibit Review, "Flavoring Order with Chaos", Mary Chandler, *Rocky Mountain News*, July 31, 2008  
 Exhibit Review, "Mud Flies", Michael Paglia, *Westword*, April, 6, 2006  
 Exhibit Review, "A Fantasy in Porcelain", Mary Chandler, *Rocky Mountain News*, March 31, 2006  
 Exhibit Review, "Pattern and Decoration Reshaped at BMoCA", E. Marglin, *Boulder Daily Camera*, Nov. 14, 2005  
 Article, "'Smut' Criticism Out of Line", Kyle MacMillan, *The Denver Post*, July 24, 2005  
 Article, "A Bracing Show Stirs Art Debate", Mary Chandler, *Rocky Mountain News*, July 29, 2004  
 Exhibit Rev., "Don't Overlook the Provocative 'Anomaly' Up North", Kyle MacMillan, *The Denver Post*, Dec. 10, 2004  
 Exhibit Review, "Home on the Range", Michael Paglia, *Westword*, Sept. 23, 2004  
 Exhibit Review, "A Biennial Exhibit That Works", Mary Chandler, *Rocky Mountain News*, Sept. 17, 2004  
 Exhibit Review, "Art: You're Kiln Me", Erica Yowell, *Las Vegas Mercury*, Feb. 5, 2004  
 Exhibit Review, "Glazed Over", Ken White, *Las Vegas Review*, Jan. 23, 2004  
 Exhibit Review, "Group Dynamics", Michael Paglia, *Westword*, Aug. 21, 2003  
 Exhibit Review, "Intimacy Shared with Meal", *Rocky Mountain News*, May 9, 2003  
 Exhibit Review, "Art and Politics I: Feminism at 40", Carey Lovelace, *Art in America*, May 2003  
 Exhibit Review, "Regarding Gloria", *Flash Art*, Jan./Feb. 2003 (Page 15)  
 Exhibit Review, "Gloria and Regarding Gloria", Barbara Pollack, *ARTnews*, Jan. 2003  
 Exhibit Review, "Regarding Gloria", *The New Yorker*, November 25, 2002  
 Exhibit Review, "Royal Flush: The Bathroom Gets Artistic Treatment", Christine Temin, *The Boston Globe*, Dec. 4, 2002 (photograph: E5)  
 Exhibit Review, "Royal Flush: Bathrooms Get a Closer Look", Nina MacLaughlin, *The Boston Phoenix*, Nov. 15, 2002  
 Exhibit Review, Shawn Hill, *ArtsMedia*, Winter 2002 (photograph)  
 Exhibit Review, "Rest Room Exhibition Flush With Imagery," Mary Sherman, *Boston Herald*, December 8, 2002  
 Exhibit Review, "Fine art takes a bathroom break", Josh Wardrop, *Parkway and West Roxbury Transcripts*, Oct. 13, 2002  
 Exhibit Preview, "Power and Glory in Sisterhood", Edward Gomez, *New York Times*, Oct. 13, 2002

Exhibit Review, "Distill, one, two,...", *Morgunbladid*, Iceland, July 18, 2002 (photograph: 27)  
 Exhibit Review, "Colorado Clay Artists Shine Outside the Lines", *The Denver Post*, June 21, 2002  
 Exhibit Review, "Colorado 2002", *Colorado Springs Independent*, Jan. 24-30, 2002 (photograph: 18)  
 Exhibit Review, "Colorado 2002", *The Gazette*, Jan. 24-30, 2002  
 Exhibit Review, "Colorado 2002: Quantity and Diversity", *The Denver Post*, Jan. 25, 2002  
 Exhibit Review, "Porcelain Revisited", *The Times Argus*, July 13, 2001  
 Exhibit Review, "Colorado Clay 2001", *Westword*, May 3-9, 2001  
 Exhibit Review, "Clay Comes Alive at Foothills", *The Denver Post*, May 4, 2001  
 Exhibit Review, "Clay Returns After a Dry Spell", *The Rocky Mountain News*, April 6, 2001 (photograph: 15D)  
 Exhibit Review, "Emerging Artists of the US", *The Times Argus*, November 3, 2000  
 Exhibit Review, "Emerging Artists of the US", *The Stowe Reporter*, Oct. 26, 2000  
*Baltimore Magazine*, 32 no.10 (Nov., 1996): 60-71 (photograph:66)  
*Ceramics Monthly*, 43, no. 3 (March, 1995): 38-40 (photograph: 40)

### Publications

**Confrontational Clay**, Judith Schwartz, A&C Black Pub. 2008, (Photographs)  
**500 Ceramic Sculptures**, Glen Brown, ed., Sterling Pub. 2009, (Photographs)  
**Sex Pots**, Paul Mathieu, Rutgers University Press, 2003, (Photographs)  
**NCECA Journal 2002**, "Eroticism in Ceramics", by Tsehai Johnson

### Collections

Art in Architecture Commission, GSA, Byron Rogers Federal Building, Denver, CO  
 Musuem of Outdoor Arts, Englewood, CO  
 Reyjzanesbaer Art Museum, Reyjzanesbaer, Iceland  
 Museum of Ceramic Art, New York, New York  
 Betty Woodman Collection, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder  
 Ray Graham, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
 Western Reserve Bank, Colorado  
 JW Marriott Hotel, Denver, CO  
 Susan Madden, Denver, CO

### Awards

2013 \$100, 000 Art Commission, Art and Architecture Program, GSA, Rogers Federal Building, Denver, CO  
 2004 Merit Award, *The Slipcast Object*, E. Bliss Ctr. for the Arts, Steamboat Spgs., CO  
 2004 Best of 3D, Group Show 2, Studio Aiello, Denver, CO  
 2003 Honorable Mention, Second World Ceramic Biennale 2003 Korea International  
 2003 Artist Fellowship, Colorado Council on the Arts, Denver, CO  
 2002 Ralph Johnson Award, Colorado Clay 2002. Foothills Art Center, Golden CO  
 2002 Merit Award, Colorado 2002, Colo. Spgs. Fine Art Center, Colorado Springs, CO  
 2000 Juror's Award, Y2Klay, Buddy Holly Center, Lubbock, TX  
 1999 Colorado Graduate Student Grant, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
 1998 Colorado Graduate Student Grant, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
 1998 Beverly Sears Dean's Small Grant, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
 1997 Dean's Small Grant, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
 1996 Graduate Fellowship, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
 1995 Community Arts Project Grant for the Patterson Park Tile Project  
 Mayor's Advisory Committee on Art and Culture, Baltimore, MD