

Jeffrey Mongrain
jmongrai@hunter.cuny.edu
www.jeffreymongrain.com

Image List

1. Chimney, 120 x 28 x 28", clay, steel, water, 2007

This memorial sculpture of an industrial-like chimney exudes a mist of distilled and mineralized water.

2. A Night's Breath, 6 x 29 x 21", clay, water, wax, 2001

This sculptural pillow form is based on European cyptal statuary in which the heads of full-length reclining bodies rest on pillows. The head impression of this piece holds 9.5 oz. of water, the average amount of moisture a man respires over eight hours of sleep.

3. Diviner, 54 x 19 x 19", clay, 2000

Glasgow Cathedral, Glasgow, Scotland

This plumb figure hangs above the spot where ten skeletons from the era of the black plague were discovered during the recent installation of an air vent. Soon after this discovery a spiritualist, using a plum-bob like diviner, attempted to detect other hidden bodies in this 12th century crypt. This occultist practice continues the historic link between Christian imagery and Paganism.

4. The Luckiest Man, 45 x 45 x 3.5", clay, black iron, and sand, 2005

On July 4th, 1939, Lou Gehrig gave his famous farewell speech from home plate of Yankee Stadium. This sculpted sound transcription emulates "...the luckiest man...". At the center of the piece is a hole the size of the small end of a 1939 baseball bat. Behind the hole is sand from home plate of Yankee Stadium.

5. Philosopher's Halo, 32 x 32 x 8", clay, optical lens, and gold leaf, 2005

The St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, Christus Church, Baltimore, MD

The philosopher St. Thomas Aquinas was one of the most noted yet controversial theologians of the Catholic Church. This halo form, traditionally depicted behind the Saint's head, has been repositioned to the front. The optical lens in the center of the halo offers a slightly distorted view of Thomas and, conversely, distorted his view of us.

6. Barack Obama, "We are truly one," March 18th, 2008 (left hemisphere), Chief Red Jacket, "Our eyes are opened," June 1805 (right hemisphere), 42 x 26 x 3", clay, wax, graphite, 2008

Sound transcriptions with the contour shape referencing the top view of the human brain.

7. Blood pool, 86 x 47 x 1/4", Plexiglas, 2006

St. Peter's Church, Columbia, SC

This Plexiglas form represents a 1.3 gallon pool of blood, the average amount found in an adult human male. Reflected in the surface is a rendering of the Last Supper, with Christ holding up the chalice proclaiming "you will drink of my blood." Blood is a contemporary self-portrait. A trace amount can define genetic structure.

8. Faith, 21 x 7 x 9", clay, volcanic stone, 2005

This Neoclassic-like figure is modeled after a 19th century Flemish Christ sculpture and a falling figure from Michelangelo's Last Judgement in the Sistine Chapel. The volcanic stone is intended to be reminiscent of da Vinci's barren landscapes. This work was originally exhibited at The National Museum of Catholic Art in New York City.

9. The Iris of Dr. John Daugman, 18 x 18 x 11", clay, optical lens, photograph, light box, 2005

This ocular window form, reminiscent of the windows found on court houses and cathedrals, holds a photograph of the iris of Cambridge Professor Dr. John Daugman. He is the inventor and patent holder of the iris scanning technology currently used for security at international airports. During our current global politics, publicly presenting the inventor's left eye may make some more conscious of the Orwellian possibilities of his invention.

10. Pierced Moose with Branch, 33 x 11 x 4", clay, resin, 2005

This work, originally exhibited in the artist's home state of Minnesota, is based on the destructive effects of global warming. Shorter winters are decreasing the nutrients in the foliage of the northern regions. Moose, although continuing to eat their traditional amount of food, are slowly dying of starvation.