

## Tsehai Johnson

born: Deder, Ethiopia

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### 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

- 2018 **Rethinking Urbanism**, Redline Gallery Annual Juried Exhibit, Denver, CO  
**Mutability: One Thing Becomes Another**, Goodwin Fine Art (Project Space), Denver, CO  
**Pink Progression**, Center for Visual Art, Denver, CO  
**Pink Progression**, Denver Public Library, Denver, CO  
**Pink Progression**, Boulder Public Library, Boulder, CO
- 2017 **The Evocative Garden**, NCECA Biennial Exhibition, Disjecta Contemporary Art Center, Portland, OR  
**Small Works: 40th Annual National Art Exhibition**, Harper College, Palatine, IL  
**The Zanesville Prize for Contemporary Ceramics**, Seilers Studio Gallery, Zanesville, OH
- 2016 **Collective Nouns: MSU Denver Faculty Exhibition**, Center for Visual Art, Denver, CO  
**Domestic Design**, Architecture Gallery, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL  
**Southern Miss Ceramics National**, University of Southern Mississippi Museum of Art, Hattiesburg, MS
- 2015 **Fired: Ceramics**, Arvada Center for Arts and Humanities, Arvada, CO  
**Activate**, DAVA- Downtown Aurora Visual Art Gallery, Aurora, CO  
**Metropolitan State University of Denver Faculty Show**, Emmanuel Gallery, Denver, CO  
**Icheon International Ceramics Biennial**, Icheon, Korea  
**Eclectic Traditions**, Attleboro Museum of Art, Attleboro, MA
- 2014 **\*Intense and Fragile**, Southwest College of Art, San Antonio, TX  
**American Heirloom**, Cruz Gallery, Santa Fe, NM  
**\*FLOW**, NCECA Ceramic Arts Invitational, Milwaukee Museum of Art, Milwaukee, WI  
**Making Contact**, Center for Visual Art, MSU Denver, Denver, CO
- 2013 **Fluid Circumvention**, Solo Exhibition, Plus Gallery, Denver, CO  
**First Draft**, 2013 Biennial of the Americas, Denver, CO  
**Mesmerize**, Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts, Spring, TX
- 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 **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 **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 Kaupfölagshusinu, Skagaströnd, 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 Recongnition**, 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, Reydzjanesbaer Art Museum, Reydzjanesbaer, 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

### Commissions

- 2017 **Field #7**, Installation at Union Building, Denver, CO
- 2016 **Zest**, Commission for the CU Boulder Village Center Dining and Community Common, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
- 2013 **Field Pattern #1, #2 and #3**, Art and Architecture Program, GSA, Byron Rogers Federal Building, Denver, CO  
 \$100, 000 commission for the interior of the Byron Rogers Federal Building  
 3 works total for 71 lineal feet of relief porcelain patterns
- 2010 Commission for interior of Spring Hill Suites Marriott, Denver, CO  
 Single commission of relief porcelain, 8'x3'
- 2009 Three wall relief works installed at JW Marriott Hotel, Denver, CO

### Interactive Projects and Performances

- 2018 **Make/Shift Monday**, Redline Gallery, Denver, CO  
**Cups of Conversation**, Everyday Café, Pittsburg, PA
- 2017 **The Coffee Exchange**, 48 Hours of Socially Engaged Art and Conversation, Redline Gallery, Denver, CO
- 2014 **Fluids in Use**, during exhibit Making Contact, Center for Visual Art, MSU Denver, Denver, CO
- 2011 **Nature/Working: The Plate Exchange**, Interactive Dining Event with Same Café, 910 Arts, Denver, CO
- 2011 35 Performances within installation *To Dust She Returns* during exhibit **Overthrown: Clay Without Limits**, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO
- 2010 **Table Lessons; a Dining Performance**, Platteforum Residency, Platteforum, Denver, CO
- 2010 **Cook Your Own Dinner: A Dining Event**, (with Viviane LeCourtis and Rori Knutson), Redline Gallery, Denver, CO
- 2010 **The Plate Exchange**, a dining performance, 910Arts Gallery, Denver, CO

### 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

Museum of Outdoor Arts, Englewood, CO  
Reyzjanesbaer Art Museum, Reyjanesbaer, 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  
Susan Madden, Denver, CO

## Teaching Experience

2011-present Associate 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

## Professional Experience

2018 Resident Artist, SundayMorning@European Ceramic Work Center, Oisterwijk, The Netherlands  
2018 Screen Printing Decals, Demonstrator in Makerspace, NCECA Conference, Pittsburg, PA  
2016 Panelist and organizer, Art and Digital Technology, Center For Visual Art, Denver, CO  
2015 Visiting Artist/Lecturer, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH  
2014 Panelist, Making Contact: In Conversation, Center For Visual Art, 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

## Catalogues, Articles, Reviews

Exhibit review, "Metro Faculty Show Collective Nouns Rates an A", Michael Paglia, *Westword*, January 11, 2017  
Exhibit Review, "Pure Imagination: Porcelain Gets a Modern Makeover", Dan Goddard, *San Antonio Current*, Dec. 3-9, 2014  
Exhibit Review, "Shades of White", Elda Silva, San Antonio Express News, Nov. 30, 2014  
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 Pheonix*, 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)