

Vince Palacios

Statement about current work

In this recent work I have been exploring different ways of drawing on ceramic forms. Instead of drawing with my own hand, I have been employing decal images of different line qualities from different time periods and different artists to compose and collage my drawings. In a way it is like drawing with someone else's hands or like conducting a piece of music. In the same manner that musical artists are sampling sounds and music of other artists to reconstruct into their own compositions, I am sampling images to reconstruct into intense, layered, mythological narratives, which have a very different rhythm than flat drawings. Some of the themes that are emerging are Biblical, Mythological and Scientific in nature. I have been exploring the origins of our species, the moral dilemma of good and evil, the role of man in nature, and the interface of science, technology and mythology.

The process is quite involved and time consuming. It may take up to twenty hours to complete a single piece. The decals are cut and collaged in many layers and fired many times to create the elaborate imagery and narrative. The decals are applied to a form that has been high fired with a coat of clear glaze. They are then fired to a very low temperature to fuse the decals onto the form. When I begin, I create some type of figure or machine image by cutting and combining decals of different objects. From there a story begins to unfold as I piece together different decal images, cutting and building on the original image. I keep layering and layering until I see a story emerge. In a way it is like excavating by addition. As I move around the form and build the narrative, I come to the beginning where I must blend the end with the beginning. I may have to fire the piece before I continue due to the fact that you cannot layer too many decals at one time. This can cause the decals to burn off and bubble up on the surface. After firing, I continue with the layering of images. At some point the story comes into focus and I stop. It is then fired one last time to 1313 degrees F. and the piece is finished.