

A Cautionary Tale

Holly Hendrick

MFA Thesis Exhibition

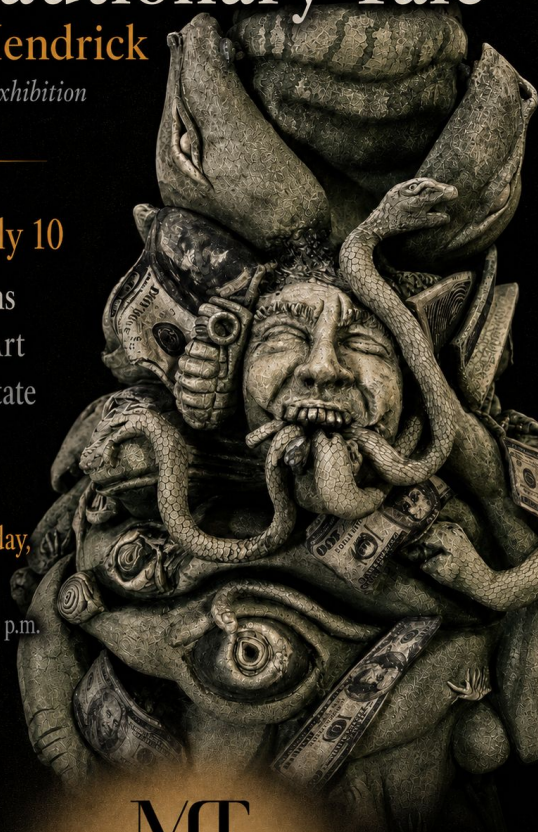
July 7 - July 10

Moss-Thorns
Gallery of Art
Fort Hays State
University

Reception Friday,
July 10

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

600 Park Street
Hays, Kansas



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FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY'S
MOSS-THORNS
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& The Patricia A. Schmidt Gallery Lobby

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Thesis Statement

A Cautionary Tale presents a series of narrative ceramic sculptures, each functioning as a short story rooted in the realities of contemporary American life. While fictional, these works draw directly from real social and political conditions, including disinformation, systemic corruption, the abuse of power, and the exploitation of the vulnerable. Through symbolic narrative and visual metaphor, each sculpture operates as both story and social critique.

My work merges artistic practice with engagement in contemporary issues, examining how wealth, technology, and ideology shape human behavior and societal structures. I am interested in how harm becomes normalized and how individuals are both shaped by and complicit within these systems. The ceramic figures and forms embody tension, fragility, and distortion, reflecting the psychological and moral complexities of living within these conditions.

Visually, the work is layered and symbolically charged. I incorporate text, imagery, color, and tactile surfaces to draw viewers in before confronting them with ambiguity and discomfort. At times, the imagery is direct and legible; at others, it is suggestive and open-ended. Rather than offering resolution, these sculptures invite viewers to reflect, question, and consider their own position within the narratives.

Alongside these narrative works, a separate body of abstract ceramic sculpture is presented as a more intimate, internal counterpart. These pieces function like melodies without words. They are forms that do not rely on language, yet still carry emotional resonance and narrative presence. They explore line, color, and form as a record of the soul, giving physical presence to what cannot be seen: energy, memory, grief, and resilience. While one body of work confronts external systems, the other documents internal experience.

Together, they reflect the visible and invisible forces shaping human life.





"Media Monster"

Ceramic
Acrylic Paint
40" x 17" x 17"
2025



"Feeding on The Future"

Ceramic

Glazes, Acrylic Paint

22" x 11" x 6"

2024



"Who Are We Fighting"

Ceramic

Acrylic Paint

20" x 17" x 10"



"Dharma is a Child of God"

Ceramic

Acrylic Paint

41" x 22" x 18"

2025



"The Billionaire's Solution"

Ceramic

Glazes, Acrylic Paint

11" x 14" x 5"

2024





*“We Will Learn to Swim
We Will Learn to Fly”*

Ceramics

Acrylic Paint

18.5” x 11” x 12”

2023



"I Think I Kan"

Ceramic

Glazes, Acrylic Paint

26" x 11" x 13"

2024



"Fugazi America: We Are All Snakes"

Ceramic

Glazes, Acrylic Paint

5" x 16" x 5"

2024



"We Will Learn to Fly"

Ceramics

Raku

11" x 18" x 8"

2023



"At War with Ourselves"

Ceramic

Glazes, Acrylic Paint

20" x 9" x 9"

2024





"Rigged"

Ceramic

Glazes

16" x 5.5" x 6"

2022



"Elegy Song"

Ceramics

Stain

11" x 18" x 8"

2024



*"TLC Bobbleheads for
Cults Jim Bob Duggar"*

Ceramic
Pan Pastels
24" x 9" x 9"
2023



"You Don't Have to Take It"

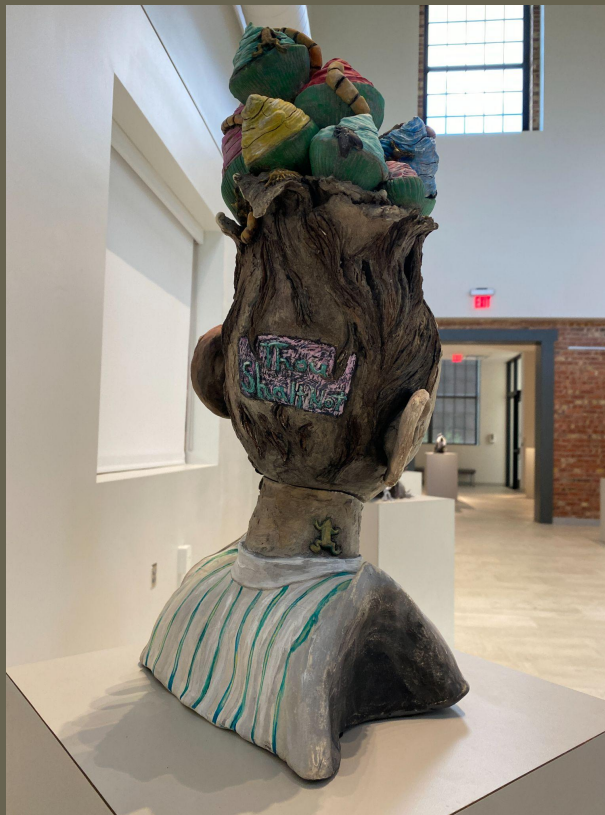
Ceramic

Glazes

18" x 5" x 6"

2022





*"Jim Bob Duggar:
Thou Shalt Not"*

Ceramic

Acrylic Paint

20" x 11" x 6"

2023



"Fugazi America"

Ceramic

Glazes, Acrylic Paint

5" x 19" x 5"

2024



"My Whale I Will Train"

Ceramic

Acrylic Paint

12" x 6" x 5"

2024



*“Ashes of Innocence: What
We Chose to Protect”*

Acrylic Paint, Encaustic Wax
Installation
2026





“Clinical Silence: Diagnosis Female”

Ceramic
Soda Fire
Installation
2025



“Sweet Deception”

Ceramics

Raku

17” x 9” x 11”

2024



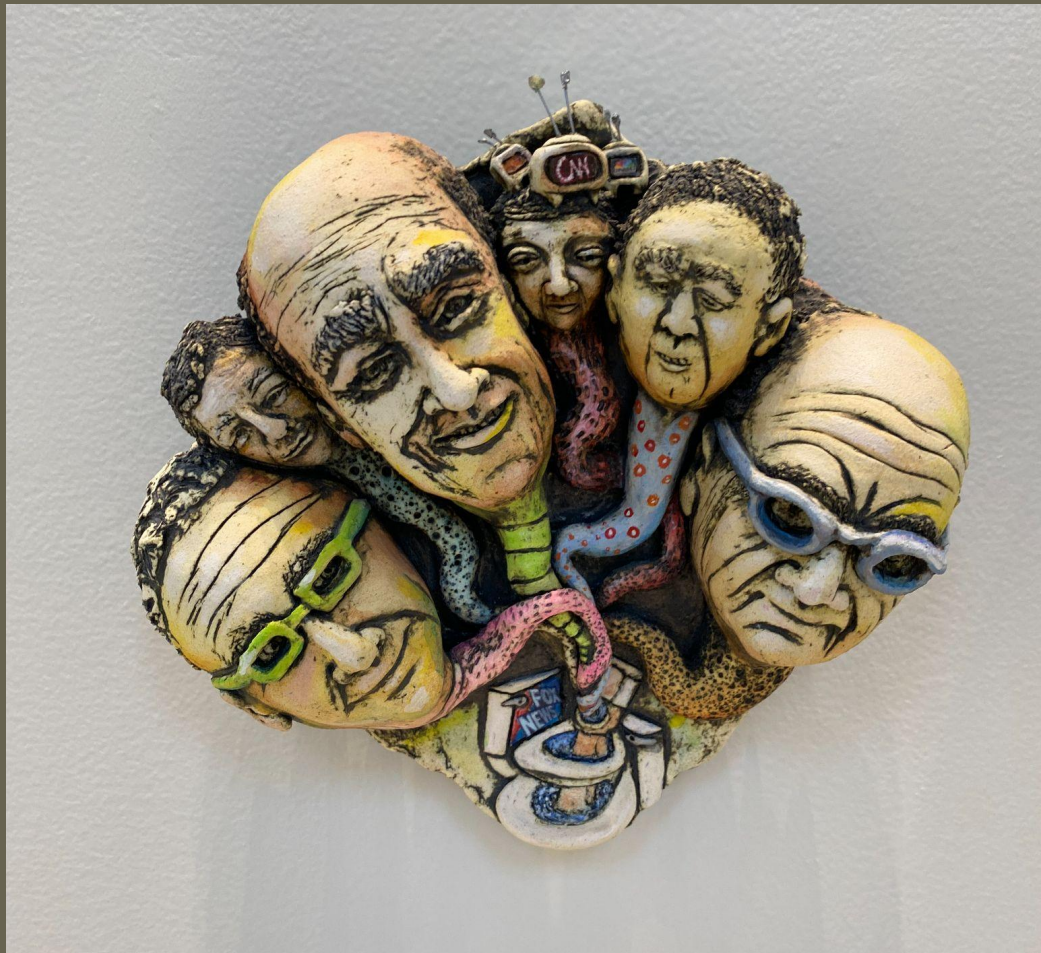
“Running America: The Billionaire Joyride”

Ceramics

Acrylic Paint

3 feet by 3 feet by 1 foot

2025



"Merchants of Hate"

Ceramic

Under Glazes, Acrylic Paint

2024





"Under the Influence"

Ceramic
Under Glazes, Acrylic Paint
2024



"My Hero"

Ceramics

Acrylic Paint

60" x 18" x 11"

2026



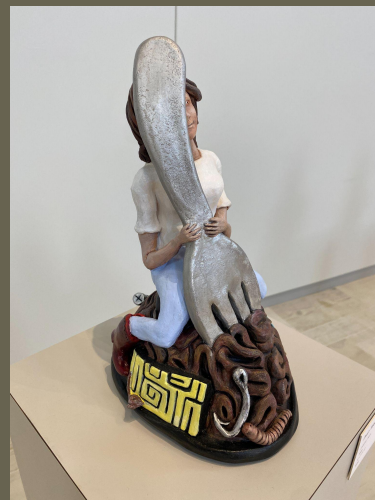
"Don't Worry, I Have a Plan"

Ceramics

Acrylic Paint

60" x 18" x 11"

2026



"Don't Take The Bait"

Ceramic

Paint

9" x 5" x 4"

2022



"Captain Kill Hate"

Mixed Media, Paint
22" x 19" x 19"
2025





"The Weight of Light"

Ceramic

Acrylic Paint, Encaustic Wax

22" x 25" x 10"

2026



"Evidence of A Soul"

Ceramic

Acrylic Paint, Encaustic Wax

19" x 12" x 10"

2026



"Where Silence Lives"

Ceramic

Acrylic Paint, Encaustic Wax

18" x 13" x 12"

2026



"One Breath"

Ceramic

22" x 13" x 12"

2026



"Fire In Me"

Ceramic

Acrylic Paint

18" x 7" x 7"





"Overture"

Ceramic

Paint, Oil Pastels, Encaustic

18" x 22" x 12"

2026



"Music"

Ceramic

22" x 13" x 12"

2023





"Shadow & Bone"

Ceramic

Glazes, Acrylic paint, Encaustic Wax

24" x 12" x 9"

2023



“Collective Spirit”

Ceramic

Paint, Oil Pastels, Encaustic

18” x 23” x 12”

2026





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