

# CONTEMPORARY MONSTERS

**Contemporary Monsters** is guest-curated by ceramic artist **Edith Garcia**. This dark and dreamlike exhibition will feature the work of seven artists who work within the realms of the surreal, yet with unique sensibilities.

Participants include the curator along with **Wesley Anderegg**, **Tom Bartel**, **Cynthia Consentino**, **John de Fazio**, **Arthur González** and **Michael Lucero**.

All of these artists translate everyday monsters into sublime sculptural works, offering original voices in an expressive and overwhelmingly physical manner.

Catalog will be available with introduction by **Edith Garcia** (Guest Curator) and exhibition essay by **Robert Silberman** (Professor, University of Minnesota).



Wesley Anderegg



Tom Bartel



Cynthia Consentino



John de Fazio



Edith Garcia



Arthur González



Michael Lucero

## Contact Us

For further information or to request 300 DPI press-ready images, an interview with an artist or curators, please contact:

**Edith Garcia**, Guest Curator at [edith@nenadot.com](mailto:edith@nenadot.com)

**Jamie Lang**, Northern Clay Center at [jamielang@northernclaycenter.org](mailto:jamielang@northernclaycenter.org)

## CONTEMPORARY MONSTERS

at Northern Clay Center, MN | March 13 to May 3, 2009

Guest Curator: Edith Garcia

Opening Reception is Friday, March 13, 6 to 8 pm.

# Wesley Anderegg

**Wesley Anderegg's** sculptures speak of everyday life and society in imaginary ways through which each of us can connect to the real world. He is best known for his disproportionately modeled figures, which are often used to create humorous, nonsensical narratives. The work draws comparisons to antique folk art and pop art. Of his work he states, "I have always been a people watcher. In the first grade I did not play with the other kids. I stood back and watched. And I have been watching ever since. I watch what people do and imagine what they might like to do." Anderegg's sculptural work makes reference to traditional functional forms such as vessels and cups. He makes use of earthenware clay and various layers of slips and underglazes.

**Anderegg** received his B.S. in geography from Arizona State University in Tempe, and has been a resident artist at the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts in Helena, Montana, and at Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, Colorado. His work is included in such collections as the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian, Mint Museum of Craft and Design and the Fredrick R. Weisman Museum in Minneapolis, among others. Anderegg's ceramic sculptures have been included in numerous exhibitions, including solo shows at The Works Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the Goldesberry Gallery, Houston, Texas; and the John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

**Contact:** [www.wesleyanderegg.com](http://www.wesleyanderegg.com)



Flying Dream



The Magician



The Capitalist



The Capitalist | Detail



Swimming for it



Dancing to her tune

**CONTEMPORARY MONSTERS**  
**at Northern Clay Center, MN | March 13 to May 3, 2009**  
**Guest Curator: Edith Garcia**

# Tom Bartel

**Tom Bartel** is known for his disturbing and often humorous fragmented figures that show influences ranging from antiquity to popular culture. He's fascinated by the human condition, which becomes a starting point for all his work. Bartel states, "my work questions various stages of life, which are determined primarily by the biological development of the body from birth to death. I see the human life cycle as an experience containing many beginnings and endings. Connections between the beginning and ending of life are a continual source of inspiration." A vital component to the work is his ceramic surfaces, which he uses to confront the viewer's attention. He sees the heavily worn surfaces as a record of the figure's history or story.

**Bartel** is currently an associate professor at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, and has taught numerous workshops over the years at places such as Santa Fe Clay, Ox-Bow (SAIC), Michigan, Idyllwild Arts, California, and Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Tennessee. He received his B.F.A. from Kent State University in 1993 and his M.F.A. from Indiana University, Bloomington in 1996. Bartel has an extensive exhibition record, including over 20 solo shows, and has participated in exhibitions throughout the world in Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan and the Czech Republic. Bartel's work is included in numerous public and private collections and he has received individual artist fellowships from the Pennsylvania Arts Council and the Kentucky Arts Council. He has been featured in numerous publications and included in several books, most recently in Judith Schwartz's *Confrontational Ceramics*.

**Contact:** [www.tombartel.net](http://www.tombartel.net)



Drag Head 2



Brooding Figure



Death and Life Figure



Death and Life Figure | Detail



Wild Boy | Detail



Wild Boy

**CONTEMPORARY MONSTERS**  
**at Northern Clay Center, MN | March 13 to May 3, 2009**  
**Guest Curator: Edith Garcia**

# Cynthia Consentino



Make Believe Installation



Rabbit Girl IV



Rabbit Girl V



Dogman



Wolf Girl II

Cynthia Consentino's work explores the nature of gender and its inherited stereotypes in addition to investigating fairy tales and their vast cast of characters. In her work, expectations are shifted and uprooted. Little girls with guns, human figures with animal heads and young girls spontaneously sprout flowers. She states "metaphor and story are used to make connections, provide layers of meaning and incorporate the universal within the personal. Objects and/or qualities from different worlds are juxtaposed and exaggeration and/or distortion are used to address dualities and apparent incongruities within human experience."

She received an M.F.A. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a B.F.A. from The Cooper Union College of Arts and Sciences, New York, NY. Her work has been shown at numerous galleries and museums including: Ferrin Gallery, Lenox, Massachusetts, Dubhe Carreño Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, The Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, American Museum of Ceramic Art (AMOCA), Pomona, California, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, Massachusetts, and the American Craft Museum, New York. She has received awards from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, American Craft Council, The Society of Arts and Crafts, and a Blanche E. Colman Award. She has also been an artist-in-resident at the John Michael Kohler Arts/Industry Program, Kohler, Wisconsin; La Napoule Art Foundation, Mandelieu-La Napoule, France; and the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Shigaraki, Japan. Her first public art commission was completed in 2005 for the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The Women's Room, one of six artist designed washrooms at the center, has over 2000 relief and painted tiles.

**Contact:** [www.cynthiaconsentino.com](http://www.cynthiaconsentino.com)

**CONTEMPORARY MONSTERS**  
**at Northern Clay Center, MN | March 13 to May 3, 2009**  
**Guest Curator: Edith Garcia**

# John de Fazio

**John de Fazio** earned a B.F.A in ceramics from Philadelphia College of Art, Pennsylvania in 1981 and an M.F.A. in sculpture from San Francisco Art Institute, California in 1984. He's been a visiting artist at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada and the University of Washington, Seattle.

**John de Fazio's** awards include a National Endowment for the Arts Visual Arts Fellowship and New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship. de Fazio creates assembled works from molded ready-mades, items mostly considered kitsch, transforming them into ironic and humorous sculptures. His work draws from childhood memories while blending themes of Pop culture with classic mythologies. His work has widely been exhibited, with shows at the American Craft Museum, New York, San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, Texas; and was included in the 1993 Venice Biennale.

His work is in such collections as the Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art in the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Shigaraki, Japan, Mint Museum of Craft and Design, North Carolina, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. He's an adjunct professor, Ceramics, Industrial Design, and Interdisciplinary Studies at California College of Art and visiting faculty in the Sculpture department at the San Francisco Art Institute.

**Contact:** [Fazio4C@aol.com](mailto:Fazio4C@aol.com)



Dada Throne



Skull Stein



Cloned Giraffe



Bagdad Battleground

**CONTEMPORARY MONSTERS**  
**at Northern Clay Center, MN | March 13 to May 3, 2009**  
**Guest Curator: Edith Garcia**

# Edith Garcia



Happy Ugly Scars



Contemporary Monsters



Missing III



Displaced without you



Fearless

**Edith Garcia (guest curator)** is a professional artist lives and works in London. She creates work that draws viewers into an alluring world of installation and sculpture. Her figurative sculptures playfully and somewhat fiercely alter and exaggerate the human form, erasing features or subtracting limbs. In doing so, she thinks about how to dismantle the limitations of the natural world in order to imagine a world of fantasy. She found this tactile language pursuing the literal meanings of figurative phrases, such as “I’ll wash your mouth out with soap” in her Peeling Off the Skin of Childhood series.

Garcia received her M.F.A. in ceramics and digital media from California College of the Arts in 2004 and her B.F.A. in sculpture from Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 1998. She has exhibited her work throughout North America and Europe with solo shows at the Barbican London and Royal Scottish Academy, as well as group shows at John Toki Gallery, California; Museum of Craft and Folk Art, SF and Baltimore Clayworks, Maryland. She has received numerous awards including a Jerome Artist Project Grant and a McKnight Artist Residency at Northern Clay Center. Her work has been published in all the major ceramic publications and recently featured in Judith Schwartz’s Confrontational Ceramics. She is currently a full-time Research Candidate at the Royal College of Art in London, UK, and most recently a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Ulster, Ireland.

**Contact:** [www.nenadot.com](http://www.nenadot.com)

**CONTEMPORARY MONSTERS**  
**at Northern Clay Center, MN | March 13 to May 3, 2009**  
**Guest Curator: Edith Garcia**

# Arthur González

**Arthur González's** work has been described as dark, somber and ominous. He reflects on the relationship between personal concerns and world issues, and draws heavy influences from literature such as the work of Chaucer, Lorca and Collodi. His sculptures, often raw in form, have rough surfaces that suggest process and a historical presence. Gonzalez states, "My figures capture the core of human spirit and character. I plumb the relationships between the human and the natural world, mining humanity's raw elements. My language is completely layered and rare, as I traverse the depths of the soul in determination for truth. A creator of unique forms, these transcriptions hover beautifully, in liminality—betwixt the between." He's currently Associate Professor of Art at the California College of the Arts.

**González** received his M.A. in painting from California State University, Sacramento and an M.F.A. in sculpture from University of California, Davis. has participated in numerous artist residencies, including at the University of Georgia, Athens; Penland School of Crafts, North Carolina; and at Taiwan National University of the Arts in Taiwan. His work has been exhibited throughout the world including over forty solo shows. He has received many awards including two from the Virginia Groot Foundation and four from the National Endowment for the Arts. His work is in numerous collections and museums including the American Craft Museum, New York; Yingge Ceramics Museum, Taipei, Taiwan; and Mint Museum of Craft and Design, Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Contact:** [www.arthurgonzalez.com](http://www.arthurgonzalez.com)



Suite August



Suite August | Detail



Suite August | Back Detail



Suite September



Suite July

**CONTEMPORARY MONSTERS**  
**at Northern Clay Center, MN | March 13 to May 3, 2009**  
**Guest Curator: Edith Garcia**

# Michael Lucero

**Michael Lucero's** work mixes personal iconography and historical reference, filled with an inquiring intellect and a fascination for storytelling. He summarizes the scope of his ceramic works: *"For me, the idea of reclamation seemed to come at a time when found objects interested me more and more. I frequent thrift shops, antique shops, antique malls, and antique fairs. This habit of mine might be considered my way of attempting a social study of American culture, of other cultures, of this conglomerate of all sorts of things from different times and different places. Different worlds collide in these places, and that really interests me."* Lucero has challenged the traditional perceived limitation of clay by giving it the importance of painting or marble sculpture.

He received his M.F.A. from the University of Washington, Seattle in 1978 and a B.A., from Humboldt State University, Arcata, California, in 1975. His work can be seen in the collections of the American Craft Museum, The Carnegie Museum, The Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art among countless others around the United States and abroad. In 1996, the Mint Museum of Art organized a retrospective of his work entitled "Michael Lucero: Sculpture 1976 – 1995," which toured to several museums around the United States. He has also received several awards and grants including three National Endowment for the Arts Artist Fellowships.

**Contact:** [michaellucero125@hotmail.com](mailto:michaellucero125@hotmail.com)



Animal Attractive



Watchman Wishing



Hairless Turtle



Nut Gatherer



Terrier Talker



Lovely Liquid

Personanimal Series



Peace Playful

**CONTEMPORARY MONSTERS**  
**at Northern Clay Center, MN | March 13 to May 3, 2009**  
**Guest Curator: Edith Garcia**

# Contemporary Monsters Events

## **Edith Garcia and Arthur González**

*Artists Demonstrations, Saturday, March 14, 9 am to Noon*

*Fee: \$35 (NCC members \$30)*

Join participants in the late winter exhibition, *Contemporary Monsters*, for a day of artist demonstrations, slide presentations, and discussion. Edith Garcia and Arthur González will demonstrate the creation of their sculpture and show images of their respective work.

## **Cynthia Consentino Demonstration**

*Saturday, May 2, 9 am to 4 pm*

*Fee: \$45 (NCC members \$40)*

Participating artist Cynthia Consentino will present a day of technical demonstrations and images. View examples of her ceramic work and processes as Consentino creates a large-scale figure through hollow construction methods. Using a combination of extruded cylinders, coils and slabs, she will create a clay armature to which she will later add pinched forms and solid clay. Additionally, Consentino will discuss how to create sculpture using multiple fired parts, which are later joined “cold” with flanges, pegging and epoxy.

**Runs:** March 13 to May 3, 2009

**Location:** 2424 Franklin Avenue East,  
Minneapolis MN 55406

**Phone:** 612-339-8007

**Email:** [nccinfo@northernclaycenter.org](mailto:nccinfo@northernclaycenter.org)

**[www.northernclaycenter.org](http://www.northernclaycenter.org)**

### **Gallery Opening Hours:**

TWFS 10 am to 6 pm

Thursday 10 am to 7 pm

Sunday noon to 4 pm

Closed Mondays.



NORTHERN CLAY CENTER