

## John Aaron

American, Born 1953

Current Residence: Arlington, VA

Visual Art/ Performance/ Education

### Education:

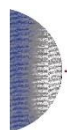
1971 (H.S.) Thacher School, Ojai, California

1989 B.F.A. University of Michigan (cum laude)

also: University of Montana Graduate Studies, SBCC, Michigan State University, UCLA,  
UC Davis

### Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 2001 *Somewhere Else*, Emerging Artist Show, Zenith Gallery, Washington, DC  
*Art Out of the Box*, Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance, Pasadena, CA (Benefit)  
*Fish Out of Water*, Public Art Project and Benefit, Baltimore, MD  
*All Things Great and Small*, Caroline Blake Gallery, Charleston, SC
- 2000 *Holiday Exhibition*, Zenith Gallery, Washington, DC  
*Glazed Visions*: (part of NCECA), William Havu Gallery, Denver, CO  
*Y2Klay at DIA*, Denver International Airport, Denver CO
- 1999 *Clay on the Wall*: 4<sup>th</sup> National Ceramic Exhibition,  
Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS  
*Please Touch*, Tohono Chul Park, Tucson, AZ
- 1998 *Colorado Clay: On & Off the Wall*, Arapahoe Community College, Littleton, CO
- 1997 *Brand XXVII-National Ceramic Competition*, Brand Library, Glendale, CA  
*The Dog in American Craft*, AKC Museum of the Dog, St. Louis, MS
- 1996 *Venice Art Walk '96*, Venice, CA
- 1995 *27<sup>th</sup> Annual Yes Store Art Co-op*, Santa Barbara, CA  
*Venice Art Walk '95*, Venice, CA
- 1994 *Artists' Response to AIDS*, The Art Store, Santa Barbara, CA
- 1993 *Centennial Celebration*, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO  
*The Pet Show* (AIDS Benefit), The Helander Gallery, New York, NY
- 1992 *Resistance and Survival*, Green Dragon Art Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA  
*Seattle Art Exposition* (Gail Severn Gallery, Sun Valley, ID)
- 1991 *Goin' To The Dogs*, Elizabeth Fortner Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA  
*Elaine Horwitch Galleries*, Scottsdale, AR & Santa Fe, NM
- 1990 *Ceramics Now*, Downey Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
*Freedom of Expression*, ACLU Postcard Project, Santa Barbara, CA
- 1989 *Vice Versa*, Joan Robey Gallery, Denver, CO
- 1988 *Monarch Tile National Ceramic Competition*,  
San Angelo Museum of Fine Art, San Angelo, TX  
*The Dog Show*, Braunstein Quay Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*WOTAZOO*, Joan Robey Gallery, Denver, CO  
*Self-Portraits*, Arvada Gallery for the Arts, Arvada, CO
- 1987 *Art in The Mountain Time Zone*, (1<sup>st</sup> Place-Sculpture), Jewish Community Center, Denver, CO
- 1986 *American Ceramic National IV*, Fair Oaks, CA  
*Monarch Tile National Competition*, San Angelo Museum of Fine Art  
*The Art of Craft & Figure and Landscape*, Denver Art Museum, CO
- 1985 *Chronicles: Historical References in Contemporary Clay*,  
Nora Ecoles Harrison Museum of Art, Logan, UT  
*CLAY: Beyond Function*, Arapahoe Community College & C.S.U. (Touring)
- 1983 *American Ceramic National II*, (American Gold Medal Award-Olympics)  
Downey Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA



Zenith Gallery est. 1978

1429 Iris St., NW

Washington DC 20012-1409

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**Selected Solo Exhibitions:**

2001 *Light Side/Dark Side*, (w/ K. Smock) Dairy Center for the Arts, Boulder, CO  
 2000 *Tales of Africa*: Andrew Macky Auditorium Gallery, C.U. Boulder  
 1998-99 *Open Studios*, Atelier Modern Arf, Boulder, CO  
 1992 *Bowled Over*, Green Dragon Art Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA  
 1991 *Artist-In-Residence*, Chamber of Commerce, Santa Barbara, CA  
 1990 *Dogs At the Helms* (Paintings), Green Dragon Art Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA  
 1989 *Spring & Fall Exhibitions*, Salty Dog Studio Gallery, Carpinteria, CA  
 1988 *Tales of Boulder*, Lodestone Gallery, Boulder, CO (BAC Grant)  
 1987 *It Was A Bomb*, Joan Robey Gallery, Denver, CO  
*Recent Work*, Janie Beggs Gallery, Aspen, CO  
 1986 *101 Mutations*, Contemporary Craftsman Gallery, Santa Fe, NM  
 1985 *Historic Boulder*, Lodestone Gallery, Boulder, CO (BAC Funded)  
 1984 *A Dog and His Boy II*, Xochipilli Gallery, Birmingham, MI  
 1983 *Solo Exhibition*, Boulder Center for the Visual Arts, Boulder, CO  
 1982 *Roomful of Clay*, Grant Street Art Center, Denver, CO  
 1980 *The Saga of a Dog and His Boy I*, Xochipilli Gallery, Rochester, MI

**Grants:** 1991 Artist-In-Residence, Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, S.B., CA  
 1988 Boulder Arts Commission, Boulder, CO  
 1987 Boulder and the University, CU Housing Dept. Sculpture Commission  
 1986 *Historic Boulder Sculpture Project*, Boulder Arts Commission, CO

**Film Awards:** 1998 DraCo National Video Contest, Boulder, *Vincent Van Gone*- Winner

**Television:** 2000 Guest Artist- Travelogue, ABC's *Ron Hazelton's House Calls*  
 Open Studios: *The Artists*, Boulder Public Television, Ch 28

**Publications:** New York Times, American Craft, Ceramics Monthly, Clay Times, ARTWEEK, new arts examiner, Dog Fancy, C.U. Alumni Magazine, L.A. Times & other daily & weekly periodicals (Review copies available upon request)

**Performances:** 1991-1999 West End Tavern, Boulder, CO, Green Dragon, Joseppi's, SoHO, SB, CA  
 The Roxy, Molly Malone's, Highland Grounds, Hollywood, CA

**Curation:** 2000 *Large Scale Clay* (NCECA), Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse, Boulder, CO  
 1998 *I Can Handle IT*, Sensory Touch Touring Exhibition to bring great artworks to the blind, Boulder Public Library, Boulder, CO (BAC Funded)

**Public Art Education:** 2001 *Legacy Tile Project*- Ceramic Mural- 15"x18', done by 5th Graders at Superior Elementary School, Superior, CO

**Teaching:** I have taught Art, History and English at the elementary to college level, senior citizens, the developmentally disabled, the visually impaired, convicts and gangs.

<b>Collections/Commissions*</b>	Deloitte-Touche	Denver Art Museum
Ford Motor Company*	Smithsonian Institution	University of Colorado*
Big Dog Sportswear	Kaiser-Permanente*	Chemical Bank
Hotel Boulderado	West End Tavern, Boulder	Shames-Makovsky Realty
Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc.	Boulder Public Library	Post-Newsweek



Cities of:

<i>Boulder, CO*</i>	<i>Santa Barbara, CA</i>	<i>Dushanbe, Tajhikistan</i>	<i>Baltimore, MD*</i>
Boone Sculpture Garden, San Marino, CA*		Kimball Small Prop./Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, CA	
Jimmy and Deborah Calano*	Ms. Peggy Phelps*		Mrs. Hugh Foster*
Ms. Cynthia Jones*	Ms. Carol Valentine*		Mr. and Mrs. George Turpin*
Dennis Quaid & Meg Ryan	Ms. Betty Sheinbaum		Danny Sullivan
Glenn Frey	Cher		Matheson/Querfeld Clans*

***John Aaron-The Thrown & Altered Three Dimensional Bowls***  
***Original Provenance of Format: Luca della Robbia, Florence, Italy, mid-1400's***

This sculptural format of three-dimensional ceramic art has its roots in 15th century Italy in the style of Luca Della Robbia and his nephew, Andrea. His works fall somewhere between painting and sculpture. His portraiture showed a strong understanding of drawing and depicted a sense of depth in a shallow plane. His contemporaries considered him one of the most important innovators of the century.

17th century French Palissy ware depicted Biblical and pastoral scenes; and the French Sevres and German Miessen ceramic manufactories specialized in landscapes, mythology and classical portraiture.

More recent influences come from a collection of contemporary American ceramic masters: Robert Arneson, with his Da Vincian parodies of the pottery side of ceramic sculpture in the 60's, as well as his ongoing satire of art history and architectural perspective; Jack Earl, with his surrealistic three-dimensional paintings; Viola Frey, with her large, colorful storytelling platters of the 80's and 90's; and most recently, Suzanne Stephenson with her three-dimensional gracefully expressionistic thrown wall forms. This particular body of work began in 1982 as an answer to a challenge by Suzanne's husband, John, as to how to blend sculptural and functional forms in clay. The first works that I created in this format were in 1982 and were architectural renderings of vintage Colorado hotels. The current works contain architectural concerns and parodies of art history, and are executed in the della Robbia circular and oval format, as well as free form low- and high-relief tile panels.

These pieces begin as thrown bowls in porcelain with diameters of 12 to 20 inches and depths of 4-7 inches. They are then built into with a coil understructure upon which a slab/coil cosmetic surface is attached, detailed and glazed. Illusionary depth of field is achieved by exaggerated perspective and the concavity of the bowl. Drying times vary from one to three months, depending upon local humidity. Glazing takes longer, in terms of hours, than the clay work does. Firings begin @ C/6, followed by underglazing and C/06 glazes. Some lustre and china painting is done @ C/020-018. Mixed media is added at this stage. The finished work is mounted upon exterior grade plywood with PL Premium Construction Adhesive and wall hung by means of the Flush Mount System. Pieces take an average of 100-120 hours to completion. Loss rate is currently 30%.

This artform is rarely practiced in the United States, probably due to its potential loss rate and the complexity of the assemblage. These works are acknowledged as some of the most difficult sculptures to successfully execute in ceramic materials; and this body of work has emerged as one of the unique art forms created in the United States today.

