

Amber Aguirre

I am a ceramic sculptor living on the Big Island of Hawaii. My work is primarily narrative and I use porcelain and my media to explore the human condition. I use anthropomorphic figures as a vehicle to present the associations of animal nature with that of people.

I express humor at the foibles of humanity, but I also focus on serious issues such as antisemitism, racism, politics, etc. I am a child of a holocaust survivor and was raised with the mission of "Tikkun Olam" (healing the world) using my work as the vehicle for this. Both humor and gravity can be addressed by the presenting the issue in a way that makes the viewer of my work stop and be thoughtful in more depth.

To accentuate the narrative, I use various surface treatments to emphasize different aspects of the work. Along with a minimal use of colorful glazes and stains, I use a surface technique that I developed known as "Naked Fauxku." This approach reproduces a likeness to Naked Raku but is created in a high fire, oxygenated atmosphere with no reduction. The advantage of this technique is that it creates a cracked and painful looking surface that adds subliminal meaning to the work, while technically imparting it with a durability that is unattainable from un-vitrified raku work.