

John Gargano
Artist Statement

The ideas behind my art work stem from a fascination with mechanisms and forms of the human body, artifacts and objects from the industrial world. These elements are intuitively mixed to generate universal forms that have familiarity and feel new, yet retain a link to a past existence or function. That mystery captures my interest and creates a platform for dialogue.

The work often utilizes parts, arms, or appendages that connect with pins, ball joints, or fasteners. Nestling and connecting these ceramic parts to one another is of great concern and requires engineering. The use of clay in this manner not only satisfies my artistic sensibilities, it also full-fills a need to express the importance of mechanics and working with tools.

Growing up in a suburb of Detroit, Michigan, the exposure to steel and automotive industries coupled with the decay of "Downtown Detroit" impressed on me the effects of industrial weathering and age. The family trips to Northern Michigan exposed me to the weathering of the natural world through lichen, mosses, dramatic season changes, and the mixes of birch and conifers. These memories and experiences are vital to my sensibilities concerning surface and color. The glaze colors and surfaces I have developed allow my work to transcend time and place by existing in the present while feeling weathered and antiquated, referencing a previous existence.