

Roberto Lugo

I was born in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia. I was my mother's third child at the age of 21. My father had a middle school education and had been working on sugar cane fields in Puerto Rico since he was a child. Being raised in the 80's in Philadelphia I was exposed to prevalent drug use and gang activity. The crack epidemic left half of the houses in my neighborhood abandoned. This neighborhood gave very little hope for a future outside of that of my family's history. My parents were first generation Puerto Ricans who were the first in my family to raise their children in the United States. It was a transition as both of my parents were raised as farmers and now my father and mother had to transfer their work ethic to the jobs available to them. My father, in an effort to seek the best job he could, would drive his bike from Kensington to Cherry Hill, New Jersey every morning. My mother would often work two or three part time jobs at a time while raising three young children. Their drive and perseverance has become a motivating force in my practice.

When I sit at a wheel I often think of my father's bike tire spinning, and this metaphor has always has me reach for more, because if he could make that sacrifice for my future it is up to me to make something of it.

Education

2014- 2015

Doctor of Philosophy Candidacy

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

2012-2014

Masters of Fine Arts

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

2008-2012

Bachelor of Fine Arts Concentration in Ceramics,

Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO

2007

Attended School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Concentration in Interdisciplinary Arts

Chicago, IL

Professional Experience

2015

Professor of Art, Marlboro College, Marlboro, VT

Board of Directors, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME

Board of Directors, National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts

2012-14

Beginning Ceramics Instructor, Penn State University, State College, PA

2009-12

Assistant Teacher to Paul Donnelly, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO

2008-13

Heads of Ceramics Program, Camp Lohikan, Lake Como, PA

Exhibitions

2017

Solo Exhibition, Taller Puertorriqueno, Philadelphia, PA

2016

Simple Forms Stunning Glazes, Cranbrook Academy, Bloomfield Hills, MI

The Rabbit Hole, Sharon Arts Center, Peterborough, NH

Funked, Dodge Painting Building, Kansas City ART Institute, Kansas City, MO

FOG, Wexler Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Art Axis Exhibition, North Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
Exhibition curated by Jen Morris, Landmark College, Putney, VT
Dysfunctional, Burlington Arts Center, Burlington, VT
Government Cheese, Lillstreet Arts Center, Chicago, IL
From the Wheel to the Wall, Garcia Squared, Kansas City, MO
Recorded Matter, Center for Craft and Creativity, Asheville, NC
Exhibition with Mat Tomezsko, Baltimore Clay Works, Baltimore, MD
Collective Design Fair, Wexler Gallery, New York, NY

2015

SOFA, Wexler Gallery, Chicago, IL
Recorded Matter, Arizona State Ceramics Research Center, Tempe Arizona
Wu Tang Worcester, Independent Arts Project, MASS Moca Campus. North Adams, MA
Solo Exhibition, Eutectic Gallery, Portland, OR
Collective Design Fair, Wexler Gallery, New York, NY
NY Ceramics Fair, Ferrin Contemporary, New York, NY
University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, WI
Borderlands, Alexandria Arts Center, Washington D.C,
Roberto Lugo and Matt Tomeszko, The Painted Bride, Philadelphia, PA
Theoretical Show, The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Project Space, New York, NY

2014

Narcissism and the Self Portrait, Ann Street Gallery, New York, NY
New York Ceramics Fair, Bohemian National Hall, New York, NY
Select Fair, Chelsea, Altman Building, Manhattan, NY
Borderlands, Alexandria Arts Center, Washington D.C
Juniata Museum, Permanent Collection, Juniata, PA,
InLiquid 15 Years, Crane Arts Building, Philadelphia PA,
Breakfast Exhibition, , The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
Souvenirs From The Future, Lawrence Arts Center, Lawrence, KS
Paper | Plate, Lawrence Arts Center , Lawrence, KS,
NCECA National Student Exhibition, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, Milwaukee, WI
Bigger than Life Twice as Ugly, Zoller Gallery, State College, PA

2013

Ceramic Top 40 |2013 Ferrin Contemporary, Belger Arts Center, Kansas City, MO
Juvenile-In-Justice, Ice Box, Philadelphia, PA
Köszönöm Szépen, International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemét, HU
Marge Brown Kalodner Graduate Student Exhibition, Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
Bang! 2nd Year MFA exhibition, Zoller Gallery, State College, PA
InLiquid Benefit, Crane Arts, Philadelphia, PA
Small Favors VIII, Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
Imperfect Ten, Zoller Gallery, State College, PA
Secret Salon, SPYN Gallery, Kansas City, MO

2012

Digital Debut, Red Star Studios, Kansas City, MO
Expo. 82-2012, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO
Mutual Space, Crossroads, Kansas City, MO
XOXO Salon Show, Spray Booth Gallery, Kansas City, MO
Watershed Cup Show, Fuel, Seattle, WA

2011

Strata, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO
Home A Juried Exhibition, The Writers Place, Kansas City, Mo
American Now and Here, Cocoon Gallery, Kansas City, Kansas City, MO
NCECA National Juried Student Exhibition, Centre Gallery, Tampa, FL

Visual Territories Juried by Sherry Leedy, Harry Krug Gallery, Pittsburg, KS
Rare Earth, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO

2007

Take the Streets with You, Betty Rhymer Gallery,
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Curatorial Experience

2016

Dysfunctional, Burlington Arts Center, Burlington, VT
Government Cheese, Lillstreet Arts Center, Chicago, IL
From the Wheel to the Wall, Garcia Squared, Kansas City, MO

Collections

West Collection, Philadelphia, PA
Juniata College Museum of Art, Juniata, PA
Ken Ferguson Teaching Collection, Ceramics Department
Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO
The Belger Collection, Kansas City, MO
Department of Fine Arts, Seminole State College, Sanford, FL

Awards

2015

NCECA Emerging Artist, Providence, RI
Victor Spinski Memorial Award, NCECA, Providence, RI

2014

Warren Mackenzie Advancement Award, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
Laguna Potter's Award, NCECA Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI
1st Place Penn State University Graduate Research Exhibition, State College, PA

2013

NCECA Graduate Fellowship, Houston, TX

2012

Penn State Assistantship, State College, PA
Sculpture Award, Home: A Juried Exhibition, Kansas City, MO

2011

Ken Ferguson Scholarship, Ceramics Department,
Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO

2010

Hispanic Scholarship Fund Recipient, Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Kansas City, MO

2009

Competitive Merit Scholarship Recipient. Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO

2008

Excellence in Drawing. Seminole State College, Sanford, FL

2007

Scholarship Recipient. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2006

Merit Award, Seminole State College. Sanford, FL

2005

Volunteer of the Year. JP Morgan Chase, Lake Mary, FL

1999

Creative Writing Award. Mastbaum A.V.T.S, Philadelphia, PA

Grants

2013

Institute for the Arts and Humanities Grant Recipient. State College, PA
Nominee, Alumni Dissertation Award, State College, PA
Nominee, Jack Kent Cooke, Award

2011

Recipient, Bread! KC Grant. Kansas City, MO.
Recipient, McKeown Grant Award, Ceramics Department,
Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO
Winner of competitive grant to design and purchase digital decals to inform studio practice.

Publications

2016

Forthcoming: Articles in American Craft Magazine and Modern Magazine

2015

"Not Fearing The Message", Cover of Ceramic Art and Perception #98
Graffix Clay, Lark Books

2014

"Roberto Lugo talks about family, humor and what fuels his ceramics", ArtBlog, Roberta Fallon
Ceramics Monthly Yearbook 2014

2013

"Wine, Cheese, and Lawyers to Help You Clean Up Your Rap Sheet", Mother Jones Magazine, Micheal Mechanic
"Roberto Lugo's Collection of Ceramics Works", Perversion Magazine, Sandi Petrie
"New Exhibit Showcases Life of Children Behind Bars", CBS Philly, Cheri Gregg
"Juvenile in Justice starkly portrays abuses of U.S Detention system", Newsworks
"Students Unite for a Cause" April 2013, Centre Daily times

2012

"Undergraduate Showcase" September 2012 issue of Ceramics Monthly
"From North Philly to the Art World" Oct 8th
<http://www.juvenile-in-justice.com/robertolugo> by Richard Ross
"Breaking Bread: BREAD! KC as a Model for Community-sourced Arts Funding", Art
Practical, 3/10/2012

2011

"Ceramic Bowls for Food and for Raising Funds for Those in Need" by Blair Schulman,
"Soup is Good" by Jenna Jackowitz, The Ptich, October 2011, p. 18
"Portfolio: Roberto Lugo" by Blair Schulman, Kansas City Magazine, August 2011, p.48
"Bread KC Gives Both Kinds of Dough at ANH" by Maggie Mull

Residencies

2016

Guest Artist in Residence, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
Artist in Residence, Baltimore Clay Works, Baltimore, MD

2013

Artist in residence, International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemet, Hungary
IAH resident artist, Penn State University, State College, PA

2012

Artist in residence, International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemet, Hungary

2011

Tom Jones Residency, Clay City, Foley, AL

Lectures

2017

Visiting Artist, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI
Visiting Artist, Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove, IL

2016

Demonstrating Artist, Pewabic, Detroit, MI
Visiting Artist, Cranbrook Academy, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Demonstrating Artist, Lawrence Ceramics Symposium, Lawrence, KS
Visiting Artist, Maine College of Art, Portland ME
Visiting Artist, SUNY New Palz, New Palz, NY
Workshop, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, MI
Workshop, The Kiln Studio, Fairhope, AL
Visiting Lecturer, St Paul's School, Concord, NH
Visiting Lecturer, Phillip Exeter Academy, Exeter NH
Visiting Artist, Franklin Pierce University, Denridge NH
Visiting Artist, Millbrook School, Millbrook, NY

2015

Visiting Lecturer, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Artist Lecture, Ferrin Contemporary, North Adams, MA
Presenter, NCECA Emerging Presentation, Providence, RI
Visiting Artist, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, WI
Visiting Lecturer, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Visiting Lecturer, Marlboro College, Marlboro, VT
Visiting Lecturer, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA

2014

Keynote Lecture, Kansas Artists & Craftsmen Association Conference, Fort Hays, KS
Visiting Artist, Juniata Museum, Juniata, PA
Visiting Artist, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO
Visiting Artist, Clarion University, Clarion, PA

2013

Visiting Artist, International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemet, HU
"Juvenile in Justice Lecture with Richard Ross", Ice Box, Philadelphia, PA
Presenter, "Wheel to the Wall", NCECA conference, Houston, TX

2012

Presenter, "Activism Through Ceramics", NCECA conference, Seattle, WA