

## **Mark Messenger**

### **- BIOGRAPHY -**

Mark Messenger is a ceramic sculptor who has lived and worked in Northern California the past eleven years. Raised in Southern California, Messenger received a BA in History from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, a Teaching Credential in Art from California State University, Fullerton and a Masters of Fine Arts from San Diego State University. He moved to the East Bay in 1996 to begin a teaching position at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill.

Messengers' sculpture is a melding of folk and fine art traditions. Steeped in ceramic process and history, his work also pays homage to the rich heritage of sensibilities which comprise American culture. In addition, there's an introspective quality to the sculpture which the artist explains:

"My work represents a personal mythology based on a contemporary perspective. This includes a combination of drawing, painting, modeling and pottery techniques. Through these I explore social, political and psychological issues in the form of narratives. This involves a variety of characters which might be viewed as elemental components of a "self". These characters interact amidst an eclectic, often anachronistic array of images and objects derived from history, religion, mythology, contemporary life, media and art. Their drama, in a variety of often humorous situations, forms the dominant undercurrent. My aim is to piece together some of the universal aspects of this dynamic."

Messengers work has been exhibited extensively and is represented in a number of national collections. Two recent international projects included a group sculpture in Cuba and a large scale, permanent installation at Parque La Carolina in Quito, Ecuador. Messenger continues to work as a Professor of Art at Diablo Valley College.