

MATTHEW DERCOLE

I received my BA in Studio Art in Ceramics with a minor in Art History from Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, PA. I then attended the University of Iowa where I earned an MFA in Ceramics, with minors in Drawing and Metalsmithing. After graduating, I moved to Philadelphia and took a work study position in the galleries at The Clay Studio. I took the position of the Resident Artist in Ceramics at the Lux Center for the Arts in Lincoln, NE from Aug 2010 - Aug 2011. While there, I taught a Ceramics course for Doane College in Lincoln, as well as children and adult classes at the Lux Center. From Sept 2011- Aug 2012, I was the Artist in Residence in Ceramics at Lillstreet Art Center in Chicago, IL where I taught ceramics classes and worked on a new body of work. From there, I held the positions of Resident Artist and Crew Member for artist Theaster Gates and Rebuild Foundation, and taught Advanced Ceramics at Chicago State University until May of 2014. I moved to Gatlinburg, TN from June 2014 – May 2015 to be the Artist in Residence in Ceramics position at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. I then spent the summer in Maine as summer studio staff at Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts from May 2015 - Aug 2015. Currently, I am the ceramics technician and instructor at the Hartford Art School in West Hartford, CT.

I develop storylines stemming from the exploration of our relationships with ideas and imagery that are often overlooked, taken for granted, sometimes disturbing, and usually misunderstood. Within these stories, I approach and investigate the dull, banal, and the obvious aspects of everyday life with a new curiosity.

Series of works are based around separate moments, all relating to each other through symbols, characters, themes, and imagery. Thinking of stories and books and how they elicit imagery, I approach my work from the point of view of a story, working through series and ideas as thoughts and surroundings evolve.

The exploration of the self, the understanding of others, and the dynamics they create are an underlying theme throughout my work. Drawing from a fascination with biology, I create forms based on principles of nature coupled with the experience of thought and feeling. The works become combinations of the natural progression of life, such as growth and decomposition, and the human aspects of reason and ability. I am reacting to the way people think and feel about their identities, how the act of learning and the responsibility of knowledge affect our everyday lives.