EDDIE DOMINGUEZ - (1957 - )

Through his ceramic art Eddie Dominguez has shared his passion for the American Southwest, its landscapes and its culture. Although his formal education took him to the Cleveland Institute of Art and New York’s Alfred University College of Ceramics, he was eager to return to his home in Tucumcari, New Mexico, where he was born and raised. He is best known as a ceramic artist; however, an important part of his oeuvre includes found materials, organic and inorganic. Dominguez brings to his work a rich heritage of Hispanic culture, expressed in sculptures ranging from deconstructed vessels, dinnerware and other household objects to large scale work such as torsos and 20-foot long rosaries.

ARTIST’S STATEMENT - EDDIE DOMINGUEZ

"By combining ideas of contemporary painting, sculpture, and crafts into multimedia forms my vision becomes realized. It is informed by my love of the land, a sense of nostalgia for home and ideas of culture. Themes of joy, sentimentality, celebration, loss, humor, environmental beauty and destruction imbue my work with content." ¹


RÉSUMÉ - EDDIE DOMINGUEZ

1957 Born, Tucumcari, New Mexico

1981 BFA, Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, Ohio

MFA, New York State College of Ceramics, Alfred University, Alfred, New York

Studio Artist, Tucumcari, New Mexico

1998-present Assistant Professor of Ceramics, Department of Art and Art History, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska

2002 Residency, Roswell Artist-in-Residence, Roswell, New Mexico

2006 New Mexico Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts

Fellowship for National Endowment for the Arts

Member, Board of Directors, Roswell Museum

Member, Board of Directors, Georgia O'Keefe Foundation

Member, Board of Directors, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts
Growing up in Tucumcari, New Mexico is an uncommon experience for a ceramic artist. For young Eddie Dominguez, it meant that the creativity he observed was expressed by his mother making a dress, his aunt crocheting doilies and curtains, his neighbor making quilts and the simple household items that were around him. These were the artworks of his childhood. Later, he was to say he was embarrassed by his innate facility with needle and thread. Outside his home, he found a passion for the New Mexico landscape. "Growing up in New Mexico, I was first struck by the clearness of the edges. Everything was visible. My work still has to do with the way edges meet. Out here there is a sharp contrast between the mountains and the sky." These are unique experiences that Dominguez carries with him and expresses in his art.

It wasn't until college that he learned that "there was a formal, academic way of thinking about art--there was a historical way to think about art and there were museums all over the world that housed it." At the Cleveland Institute of Art he planned to study painting but upon being exposed to clay changed his major to ceramics. It was at graduate school, the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, that Dominguez conceived work that was to develop over the next several years, his House of Art. For his MFA exhibition, he created the "Dining Room." This was an environment reminiscent of his childhood, using found objects laden with nostalgia. In the ensuing years, other rooms were created for his House of Art.

When his MFA was completed, he eagerly returned to Tucumcari. For over a decade he focused on studio work, exploring a wide range of materials and subjects. His "Dinnerware Sets" he has produced for the past twenty-five years. Each ceramic set is a grouping of dishes replicating a flowerbed. The pieces within a set may include leaf forms that can serve as plates, blossoms that function as cups, stems as candlesticks. These can be assembled to represent a flower garden. The sets are reflective of events in Dominguez' life and some have been named in honor of important people in his life. His mixed media pieces are predominantly composed of found materials, both organic and inorganic. He created frames for them with overlapping sheets of copper and brass, textured in repoussé. The edges contrast as the mountains and sky contrast. During this period he produced a number of other works, among them: "Art and Crap," a diptych examining the debate about what is art and what is craft; photomontages composed of cut and pasted personal photographs reminiscent of mountains and sky; and works in black and white.

In 1998, Dominguez accepted a teaching position as Assistant Professor of Ceramics in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He doesn't distinguish between teaching and creating art. "Teaching for me is like making art work. They are not separate. Teaching is just another way of creating and sharing information It 's another medium for me."

His creativity continues. His most recent work even more closely allies the textures of his Hispanic childhood with the boundaries and colors of the New Mexico landscape. For example, the lower portions of some of his large-scale torsos appear to be landscapes, topped by the upper portion expressed in textured flowers or skies. His rosaries, as long as 20 feet, bear such names as "Sangre de Cristo," "Faith," and "Hope."
About his work, Dominguez says, "From my earliest memories, I always felt a responsibility to do community work, to bring art to places where art doesn't live. I would hope that if I have ever done anything important, it would be that I brought art into the life of many people."  

2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY - EDDIE DOMINGUEZ**

**Books and Catalogs**


Held, Peter, ed. *Innovation and Change*. Tempe, AZ: Arizona State University Art Museum, 2009


**Periodicals**


Silberman, R. "Eddie Dominguez [exhibit]." *American Craft* 58 no. 3 (June/July 1998): 70.


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**GALLERY REPRESENTATION - EDDIE DOMINGUEZ**

**WEB SITES - EDDIE DOMINGUEZ**

http://www.lapidesgallery.com/artists/dominguez2.html
Photos of work by Dominguez

http://www.unl.edu/ucomm/splash/eddie.shtml
Article on Dominguez

http://www.nationalhispaniccenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=227&Itemid=251
Article on Dominguez from the National Hispanic Center

http://www.tfaoi.com/aa/8aa/8aa104.htm
Article on exhibition “Cultural Landscapes” with images and commentary

http://www.absolutearts.com/artsnews/2005/05/30/33044.html
Article on “Diane Marsh & Eddie Dominguez: Parallel Perceptions of Land, Form, & the Natural Condition.”

“Ceramic Artist Eddie Dominguez to Discuss Man and Nature at CU.”

Link to video “Eddie Dominguez-Ceramic Artist”

http://www.phoenix.gov/arts/cp_16.html
Article on mixed media work by Dominguez at Sky Harbor International Airport, Phoenix, AZ

http://www.haystack-mtn.org/administrative_offices.php
Article about mural done by Dominguez for Haystack

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