

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Stephen De Staebler

An important figure in the California Clay Movement, De Staebler's works in both clay and bronze call to mind archetypes of the collective unconscious. Totemic and fragmented in form, the sculptures waiver between the dichotomies of earthly and spiritual, body and landscape and fragility and resiliency.

...despite their apparent antiquity, they speak of a shared humanity that spans cultures and eras. Both tender and tough, these fragmentary figures offer evidence of a sensibility that understands both the inevitability of physical death and the unquenchability of the human spirit.- Rick Newby

What is particularly compelling about this most recent sculpture is that it only could have been created after a lifetime of making work, as it draws from fired fragments from the past four decades. The subtle and varying natural hues of clay counter the raw forms that have now been assembled into figures that reflect Stephen's undeniably original and poetic voice.

De Staebler often pares the figure down to just a leg, referencing the part of the body closest to the earth.

What is exposed in the process are incomplete figurative forms that have a dualistic quality, at once emerging and retrieving into the material. Through his work, De Staebler seeks to achieve equilibrium between integration and disintegration of the form to explore questions of origins, time and the nature of existence. With its profound questioning on the form of our humanity, Stephen DeStaebler's work resonates today because it seeks to capture some of the truth and beauty of our uncertain condition. – Nancy Servis, Richmond Art Center.

Born in 1933, Stephen De Staebler is originally from St Louis, Missouri. He graduated with a degree in theology from Princeton University and a masters in sculpture at the University of California, Berkeley. He has exhibited widely and most recently had solo exhibitions at the Napa Valley Museum, the Palo Alto Art Center and the Richmond Art Center.

He has been awarded numerous NEA grants as well as a prestigious Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. His work is in the permanent collections of many museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, de Young Museum, Oakland Museum of California, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

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Stephen De Staebler

EDUCATION

- 1961 University of California, Berkeley, CA, M.A., Art
- 1959 University of California, Berkeley, CA, General Secondary Teaching Credential
- 1954 Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, A.B., Religion
- 1951 Black Mountain College, NC. Studied with Ben Shahn.

TEACHING

- 1967-95 San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
- 1961-67 San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA
- 1961-62 San Francisco State College, San Francisco, CA
- 1957-58 Chadwick School, Rolling Hills, CA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Metaphoric States*, Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, CA,
- 2013-2014 *Stephen De Staebler*, The Sculptor, The Man, Udinotti Museum of Figurative Art, Scottsdale, AZ
- 2012 *Matter + Spirit: The Sculpture of Stephen De Staebler*, Retrospective at the de Young Museum, San Francisco Museum of Fine Arts, San Francisco, CA
- 2011-12 *Stephen De Staebler*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 *Stephen De Staebler: New Work*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 *Stephen De Staebler: New Work*, Napa Valley Museum, Yountville, CA
Stephen De Staebler: The Sculptor's Way, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA
- 2008 *Stephen De Staebler: Wrested From the Earth*, Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2007 *Stephen De Staebler: New Figure Columns*, Paul Thiebaud Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 *Stephen De Staebler: Figure Columns*, Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago, IL
Stephen De Staebler: Winged Figures, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA
Stephen De Staebler: Recent Work, Fresno Art Museum, Fresno, CA
- 2005 *Stephen De Staebler: Recent Work*, Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, NY
- 2004 *Stephen De Staebler: Recent Work*, Paul Thiebaud Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Stephen De Staebler: Selected Works, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT
- 2003 *Stephen De Staebler: Figure Columns*, Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, NY
Stephen De Staebler: Master Artist VI: A Thirty Year Survey, Hearst Art Gallery, Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA
Stephen De Staebler: Figure Column Series, Franklin Parrasch Gallery, NY
The Human Condition: Sculptures by Stephen De Staebler, University of California, San Francisco, CA

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- 2002 Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, NY
- 2000 Campbell Thiebaud Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, NY
- 1999 *Stephen De Staebler: Major Works from the 1980's*,
1999 Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, NY (catalogue)
Stephen De Staebler: Winged Figures, Brauer Museum of Art, Valparaiso University
Center for the Arts, Valparaiso, IN. Traveled to Union University, Jackson, TN
- 1998 Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, NY
- 1996 Campbell Thiebaud Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Stephen De Staebler, Colorado University Art Galleries, Boulder, CO
Recent Works, Fresno Art Museum, Fresno, CA
New Works in Clay, European Ceramics Work Center, Hertogenbosch, The
Netherlands Lizardi/Harp Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1995 *The New Bronzes*, CDS Gallery, New York, NY
Stephen De Staebler: Sculpture, Udinotti Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
- 1994 Campbell-Thiebaud Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1993 *Stephen De Staebler*, The Academy of Art College, San Francisco, CA
CDS Gallery, New York, NY
- 1992 CDS Gallery, New York, NY
- 1991 *Stephen De Staebler*, Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art, Monterey, CA
- 1990 John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1988 *Stephen De Staebler: The Figure*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San
Francisco, CA. Traveled to: Neuberger Museum, State University of New
York, Purchase, NY; Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American
Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; Krannert Art Museum,
University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois; Laguna Art Museum, Laguna
Beach, CA; Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, CA. (catalogue)
- 1986 John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1983 Charles H. Scott Gallery, Emily Carr College of Art, Vancouver, British Columbia.
Traveled to: Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale, AZ; Crocker Art
Museum, Sacramento, CA; Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu, HI;
Laumeier International Sculpture Park, St. Louis, MO; Virginia
Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, VA; Visual Arts Gallery, Florida
International University, Miami, FL; Art Museum of Santa Cruz County,
Santa Cruz, CA.
- 1981 Hansen Fuller Goldeen Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1979 James Willis Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Winona State University, Winona, MN
- 1974 Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA (catalogue)

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SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 *Two Geologies: Stephen De Staebler & Danae Mattes*, Dolby-Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco
Beyond Craft, Decorative Arts for the Leatrice and Melvin Eagle Collection, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston
- 2013 *Hello, Goodbye*, Dolby-Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco
Beyond Belief: 100 Years of the Spiritual in Modern Art, Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, June 28 – October 27.
- 2011 *Heads*, Dolby-Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, March 3–April 30.
- 2010 *Painting, Sculpture and Ceramics*, Zane Bennett Contemporary Art Santa Fe, New Mexico
- 2009 *Perspectives*, Stremmel Gallery, Reno, Nevada, May 20–June 30.
Body Language: The Figure in Sculpture, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero, FL
Multiple Personalities: Figural Sculpture and Contemporary Craft, Minneapolis Museum of Art, Minnesota, MN
- 2008 *Masters of Disguise*, The Mint Museum of Craft + Design, Charlotte, NC
Great Ceramics from the Ceramic Research Center, Arizona State University Art Collection, Travels to: Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, IN; The Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR; J. Wayne Stark Gallery, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; Roswell Museum and Art Center, Roswell, NM; Plains Art Museum, Fargo, ND; Las Cruces Museum of Fine Art & Culture, Las Cruces, NM (2008-9); Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, AL (2009); Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, KS (2009); Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, FL (2010)
Paradigms and the Unexpected: Modern and Contemporary Art from the Shey Collection, Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 2007 *Shy Boy, She Devil, and Isis: The Art of Conceptual Craft: Selections for the Wornick Collection*, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Boston, MA
A Legacy of Art: The Ted and Ruth Nash Collection, Oakland Museum of California
- 2006 *Soaring Spirits – Feet of Clay*, Schneider Museum of Art, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon
- 2005 *A Broken Beauty: Figuration, Narrative and the Transcendent in North American Art*, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA
Innovation & Change: Great Ceramics from the Permanent Collection, Ceramic Research Center, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Bodies of Clay, Evansville Museum, Evansville, IN
From Tiles to Totems: A Century of Northern California Ceramics, Art Foundry Gallery, Sacramento, CA
- 2004 *Onward and Upward*, Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago, IL

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- 2003 *Stremmel Gallery @ 30*, Reno, NV
Bay Area Revisited, Schick Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
- 2002 *The 177th Annual: An Invitational Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York, NY (catalogue)
- 2000 *Defining Moments in Contemporary Ceramics: Color and Fire*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
Made in California, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA (catalogue)
- 1999 *The Art of Craft: Contemporary Works from the Saxe Collection*, M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Clay into Art: Selections from the Collection of Contemporary Ceramics in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
- 1988 *Twentieth Century American Sculpture*, The White House, Washington, D.C.
- 1997 *Bay Area Art from The Morgan Flagg Collection*, M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco, CA
- 1996 *Generations: The Lineage of Influence in Bay Area Art*, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA
- 1993 *Sanctuaries: Recovering the Holy in Contemporary Art, Part One*, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO
- 1988 *New Visions of the Apocalypse*, Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island
- 1987 *The Eloquent Object*, Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK. Traveled. (catalogue)
- 1986 *Contemporary Sculpture from the Martin Z. Margulies Collection*, Martin Z. Margulies, Coconut Grove, FL. permanent collection, (catalogue)
- 1984 *The 20th Century: The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Collection*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
- 1980 *20 American Artists*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA. (catalogue)
- 1977 *Perceptions of the Spirit in 20th Century Art*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN. Traveled. (catalogue)
Public Sculpture/Urban Environment, Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA (catalogue)
- 1975 *Public Sculpture/Urban Environment*, Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA (catalogue)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2012 American Craft Council, Award
- 1994 American Craft Council, Fellow
- 1993 National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, Honorary Council Member
- 1992 Utsukushi-ga-hari Open Air Museum, Japan, The Fourth Rodin Grand Prize Exhibition, Nobukata-Shikanai Special Prize

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- 1989 American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York, NY, Award in Art
1983 Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, Artist's Fellowship
1981 National Endowment for the Arts, Individual Artist's Fellowship
1979 National Endowment for the Arts, Individual Artist's Fellowship
1965 Zellerback Memorial Prize in the Art of Sculpture
1964 Walnut Creek Art Festival, San Francisco, CA, Grant Purchase Award
San Francisco Art Festival, San Francisco, CA, Major Purchase Award
1961 Oakland Art Museum of California, Oakland, CA, *First California Craftsman Biennial Exhibition*, Award for Merit
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Annual, San Francisco, CA, Prize for Sculpture
1960 Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA, Prize for Ceramic Sculpture
1954 Fulbright Scholarship to Italy (declined by the artist)

COMMISSIONS

- 1998 New Harmony, IN. *Angel of Annunciation*, Bronze Sculpture
Chiron Corporation, Emeryville, CA. *Two Figures*, Bronze Sculpture.
1993 San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, CA. *Winged Guardian*, Bronze Sculpture
Graduate Theological Union, University of California, Berkeley, CA. *Winged Figure*, Bronze Sculpture.
City Center Garage West/Amphitheatre, Oakland, CA. *Three Figures*, Bronze Sculptures
1990 Portman Building, Embarcadero Center West, San Francisco, CA.
Torso with Raised Arm, Bronze Sculpture.
1989 Geary-Market Investment Company, San Francisco, CA. *Angel*, Bronze Sculpture,
Installed at 720 Market Street.
1988 New Harmony Inn and Conference Center, New Harmony IN. *Pieta*, Bronze Sculpture
1986-87 New Harmony Inn and Conference Center, New Harmony IN.
Light Sculpture and Water Sculpture.
1985-87 General Services Administration, Old Saint Louis Post Office, St. Louis MO.
Birthplace, Clay Sculpture.
1986 Iowa State University, University Library, Ames, IA. *Left Sided Angel*, Bronze Sculpture
1985-86 San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco, CA. *Man with Flame*, Bronze Sculpture, Installed at the Moscone Parking Garage.
1981-82 Pacific Mutual Insurance Company, Pacific Mutual Plaza, Newport Beach, CA.
Canyon, Stoneware Clay Sculpture.
1980-81 Department of General Services, New State Building, San Jose, CA.
Siracusa, Ceramic Sculpture.

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- 1976-77 Bay Area Rapid Transit District, San Francisco, CA. *Wall Canyon*, High Fired Ceramic, Monumental Wall Sculpture, Installed at the Embarcadero Station, San Francisco, CA.
- 1972 Bay Area Rapid Transit District, San Francisco, CA. Stoneware and Concrete Water Sculpture, Installed at the Concord Station, Concord, CA.
- 1970 University Art Museum, Berkeley, CA. *Seating Environment* for the Lower Lobby, Stoneware Clay Sculpture.
- 1969 The Woman's Art League of the East Bay. *Farnsworth Memorial Sculpture (Sun Dial)* Stoneware Clay Sculpture, Installed at the Oakland Museum of Art, Oakland, CA.
- 1967-68 Sanctuary of the Holy Spirit Chapel, Newman Hall, Berkeley, CA. Five Stoneware Clay Pieces: Altar, Tabernacle, Lectern, Crucifix, Celebrant's Chair.
- 1963 Prudential Savings and Loan, Salt Lake City, UT. *Moab I*, Stoneware Clay, Wall Relief.
- 1961 Consumers Cooperative of Berkeley, Berkeley, CA. *Concerted Movement*, Welded Bronze Wall Sculpture.

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA
Brunnier Art Museum at Iowa State University, Ames, IA
Ceramics Research Center, Arizona State University Art Museum, Scottsdale, AZ
Contemporary Art Museum, Honolulu, HI
Copia: The American Center for Wine, Food & the Arts, Napa, CA
Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
di Rosa Preserve, Napa, CA
Everson Museum, Syracuse, NY
Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Fresno Art Museum, Fresno, CA
Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
de Young Museum, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CA
MacNider Art Museum, Mason City, IA
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN
Mint Museum of Craft + Design, Charlotte, NC
Moores School of Music, University of Houston, Houston, TX
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, ME
Museum of Art & Design, New York, NY
Neuberger Museum, Purchase, NY
New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT
New Orleans Museum of Art, Sydney and Walda Bestoff Sculpture Garden, NOLA
Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Palm Springs Museum, Palm Springs, CA

Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK

Runnymede Sculpture Park, Woodside, CA

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden, U. of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, Topeka, KS

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Renwick Gallery, Washington DC

Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, IN

Utah Museum of Art, Salt Lake City, UT