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TAYLOR ROBENALT

# THE DARK AND THE LIGHT

[TAYLORROBENALTCERAMICS.COM](http://TAYLORROBENALTCERAMICS.COM)

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Taylor Robenalt

Ms. Robenalt attended Southern Methodist University for her BFA in bronze casting and stone carving. She then discovered her love for ceramics and decided to study at the University of South Florida to receive a post baccalaureate. She received a graduate assistantship at the University of Georgia where Ms. Robenalt accomplished her MFA in ceramics in May 2011. She is currently employed by Ringling College of Art and Design and has taught at State College of Florida, Auburn University and Columbus State University as an adjunct ceramic professor. Ms. Robenalt was a long-term artist resident at Odyssey Clayworks. She is also the co-founder of a sculpture collective called Ceramic Sculpture Culture. She has participated in many national and international ceramic shows, such as *Un-wedged*, *Vision in Clay*, *History In The Making*, recently showing at NCECA. The summer of 2018, Taylor co-taught a class on porcelain at Penland School of Crafts. The summer of 2019 she won the NCECA International Residency award and travelled to Vallauris, France. This year, she will have a solo show at the Canton Museum of Art in Canton Ohio as well as a piece at a show at N.C.E.C.A. in Richmond, VA. Later this year she will be teaching workshop at Appalachian Center for Craft and Arrowmont School for Craft. To view Taylor's work please go to [www.taylorrobenaltceramics.com](http://www.taylorrobenaltceramics.com).

The Dark and The Light:

Storytelling has been apart of our culture since the beginning of human existence, from the cave paintings of Lascaux, the Venus of Willendorf fertility goddess and ancient Roman and Greek sculptures to contemporary artist such as Louise Bourgeois, Cristina Cordova and Chuck Close. I, in my own way want to be apart of this storytelling by making detailed porcelain sculptures that explore the figure, flora and fauna. I create narratives using personal experience combined with animal interactions and semiotics. Art helps me understand the relationship between human beings in the natural world; it helps me explore emotions and the human condition.

In Symbolic Narrative, I strive to reveal human realities, by exposing both the light and the shadow parts of life. The room is divided in half with one side exploring the tough, anguished and raw side of human emotions, while the other side highlights the bright, joyous and the abundance in life. Both color and content are important in creating these narratives, some being very personal.

I have chosen porcelain because it is a beautiful material that is very malleable and tactile. I choose to leave parts of my pieces in its raw state, which has a skin like quality. Glaze, underglaze, luster and decals are also an important part of the surface. Most of the imagery that I utilize has specific meaning that relates to my personal emotions and creates a narrative: dogs represent loyalty and unconditional love, birds signify vibrancy and freedom, bears embody courage and strength, swans exemplifies purity and balance and bunnies symbolize fertility. Often a piece will have a black and white animal or figure that will represent the yin and the yang in relationships or the male and female energies. Roses are very common in my work and depending on its color represents different meaning. The red rose is the lover's rose, signifying passion and endurance; white roses mean humility and innocence; yellow roses express friendship and joy and pink roses represent gratitude, appreciation and admiration. Flowers for me are also the perfect symbol of the cycle of life, constantly being recreated, shining brightly with life and dying. I view the work as a metaphor for how life is always transforming itself with all of its complexities— constantly bringing forth a new chapter of unforeseen existence.

Linda Berry Stein  
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*"Delicate Preciousness"*  
Porcelain, underglaze,  
glaze, luster, cone 6 oxidation,  
luster firing  
H8"xW9"xL15"  
2018



*"Flutter"*  
Porcelain, underglaze, glaze, luster  
decals, cone 6 oxidation, decal firing  
H8"xW14"xL19"  
2018





*"Looking For Balance"*  
Porcelain, cone 6 oxidation,  
underglaze, glaze and luster  
H16"xW5"xL12"  
2019  
\*



*"These Are Barren Times"*  
Black stoneware, cone 6 oxidation,  
underglaze, glaze, decals,  
luster and mixed media  
H19"xW10.5"xL21"  
2020  
\*





*"Wall Between Us"*

Porcelain, cone 6 oxidation, underglaze,  
glaze, luster and mixed media  
H12"xW7"xL8"

\*



*"Beautiful Bird of Prey"*

Porcelain, cone 6 oxidation,  
underglaze, glaze, luster and mixed medi  
H12"xW7"xL8"

2019

\*



*"Coming Together"*  
Porcelain, cone 6 oxidation,  
underglaze, glaze, luster  
and mixed media  
H12"xW7"xL8"  
2019  
\*



Taylor Robenalt – The Dark and Light Exhibition 2020

*"Our Collective Existential Crisis"*  
Black stoneware, cone 6 oxidation,  
underglaze, glaze and mixed media  
H31.5"xW12"xL12"  
2020  
\*







*"In A Graceful Hand"*  
Porcelain, cone 6 oxidation, underglaze,  
glaze decals and luster  
H12"xW13"xL8"  
2019  
\*



*"kNot Enough"*  
Porcelain cone 6 oxidation, underglaze,  
glaze decals and luster  
H6"xW8"x L15"  
2019  
\*



*"The Future Is Bright"*  
Porcelain, cone 6 oxidation,  
underglaze, glaze and luster  
H34"xW13"xL15"  
2020  
\*



1. *"Contrasting Swans"*  
Cone 6 oxidation, hand built porcelain,  
underglaze, glaze and luster  
H25"xW14"xL 13"  
2017





*"We Are Born To Die"*  
Porcelain, cone 6 oxidation,  
underglaze, glaze, luster  
2020  
\*





1. "Summer Breeze"  
Cone 6 oxidation, hand built porcelain,  
underglaze, glaze and luster  
H20"xL13"xW11"  
2018





3. *Bunny V.S Dog*  
Cone 6 oxidation, hand built porcelain,  
underglaze, glaze and luster  
H12"xL13"xW11  
2017



*Hands of Awareness*  
Porcelain, cone 6 oxidation, underglaze, glaze,  
luster and mixed media  
H12"xW7"xL8"  
2019  
\*





*Heart Felt Love*  
Porcelain, cone 6 oxidation,  
underglaze, glaze and luster  
H13”xW6”xL10”  
2019  
\*

*“Unable To Know”*  
Porcelain, dark stoneware, glaze,  
luster decals and mixed media  
H20” X W15” X L22”  
2020  
\*







*Swimming With Important Cargo*  
 Porcelain, cone 6 oxidation, underglaze,  
 glaze, luster and mixed media  
 H18.5" x W10" x L22"  
 2020  
 \*



*To Become Light You Have  
 To Let Go Of Heavy Things*  
 Porcelain, cone 6 oxidation,  
 underglaze, glaze, luster  
 and mixed media  
 H8" x W15" x L26"  
 2019  
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### **Performing Arts Series upcoming events:**

#### **MFA: In The Works Online**

Thursday, July 23

#### **School of Art & Design Faculty Biennial Exhibition**

Thursday, August 20 through Monday, October 12

#### **The Jacksonville University Jazz Faculty Concert**

Tuesday, September 22 at 7:30 PM

#### **Diastole: Songs for Inspiration in Turbulent Times**

October 2nd and 3rd at 7:30 PM

October 4th at 3:00 PM

#### **Lunch Music with the Jacksonville University Singers**

Wednesday, October 7 at 12:00 PM

#### **Senior Spotlight**

Thursday, October 8 through Wednesday, November 18

#### **“Decisions”**

Saturday, October 10 at 7:30 PM

#### **The Jacksonville University Camerata: Bach and More!**

Tuesday, October 13 at 7:30 PM

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**Virtual Events at [www.ju.edu/lbscfa](http://www.ju.edu/lbscfa)**