

EXCELLENCE in Action

"GUARDIAN VASE,"  
EARTHENWARE.



# heads

the ceramic sculpture of K I R K M A N G U S

AUG. 2 – 31, 2008  
EELLS GALLERY

  
**KENT STATE**  
UNIVERSITY  
School of Art Galleries

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There are several interpretations of the ceramic medium in the art world. More than a question of functionality, often the medium is seen as tool or a “means to an end.” Clay has also been continually relegated to the sidelines as something used for the “crafts,” as if that in some way is a bad thing. In this era, pigeonholing anything doesn’t work. Like anything commercial, which of course it is, art has become art by any means. What you use to get your message across is only part of the story.

Kirk Mangus has long been a proponent of elevating functional ceramics from that aforementioned sideline. His work has a uniqueness that circles around the way he models and draws and in how he portrays the medium he likes to use – clay. This exhibition, Heads, is an excellent example of who Mangus is as an artist. The forms are characters out of his sketchbooks, and while some are recognizable like the Mayan god of thunder and rain, Chaac, others only exist or come to life in the mind of the artist. Also, while all of these objects are, of course, Heads they are also functional pots.

Kirk Mangus has been a professor at the Kent State University School of Art for over 20 years. He has been exhibited and collected both nationally and internationally and is one of the most widely known ceramic artists in the world.

ANDERSON TURNER

DIRECTOR OF GALLERIES

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF ART



“RACH VASE”

"RABBIT  
GIRL"



"BLACK CAT VASE"



"SNOOZLE"



"SLEEPING BEAR VASE"



"KAT VASE"



School of Art Gallery

Downtown Gallery

Student Galleries

**Eells Gallery** School of Art Galleries

Michener Gallery



"BLUE BUNNY"



<http://dept.kent.edu/art/galleries>

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