



# THE QUARTERLY



# DENNIS RITTER



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# Meet: DENNIS RITTER

I received my BFA from Temple University's Tyler School of Art and my MFA from The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. I have taught at the Tyler School of Art, Alfred University, and at Louisiana State University as well as in community arts programs in Philadelphia with The Clay Studio. I am currently a visiting assistant professor in the Art Program at Berry College where I teach ceramics and sculpture. My work has been exhibited throughout the United States and is held in numerous private collections. I have received numerous grants and awards to attend residency programs such as Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts and The Vermont Studio Center. I currently live in Northwest Georgia with my partner and our two dogs.

I primarily work in clay but my practice also includes digital processes, mold making, photography, and wood fabrication. I fell in love with clay and the ceramic process in community college but didn't pursue it as a career until my early thirties when I started volunteering at The Clay Studio in Philadelphia. Getting to work there gave me the opportunity to be around all kinds of artists working with clay in different ways that I hadn't imagined. From there, I pursued my BFA, MFA, and a career as an educator and studio artist.

As a material, clay always presents a challenge or a problem to solve. I really enjoy trying to breakdown a form or a process and engineering pieces so they will

of ceramics, it is one of the oldest art materials and it is also a marker for past (so much of our collective knowledge of past cultures is gleaned from their ceramic objects!). I like to think about the idea that making an object out of clay is akin to creating a future artifact.

I remember drawing and coloring a lot as a young child but not really knowing what "art" was until about 4th grade when a teacher showed us paintings in a class. I was also really interested in taking things apart, building models, and lived in a house that was always being remodeled DIY style. When I was 13, I went to the Philadelphia Museum of Art with a close friend and his dad. The paintings were cool but I remember

Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors (Large Glass) and Etant Donnes. I think that was the moment that I knew art was something I was interested in, not because I understood something about what I saw but because those pieces were so different from everything else in the museum that I could not stop thinking about them.

My work explores the role of common objects – house plants, books, appliances, and keepsakes- as foundational markers for personal and cultural identity. These objects are often juxtaposed with one another to create works that reference domestic life and the

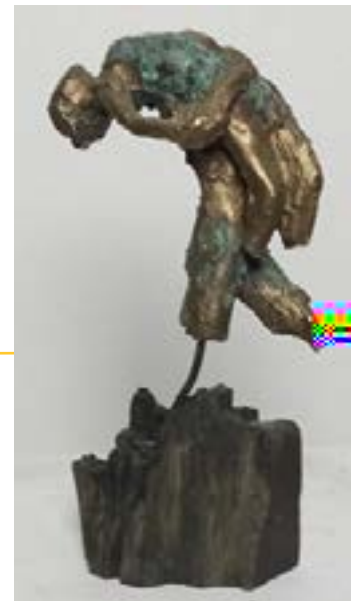
# DOVA'S 50th Anniversary

The 2021–2022 academic year is a momentous occasion for the Department of Visual Arts (DoVA) — the celebration of the 50th anniversary.

Over its 50-year history, DoVA has been recognized for academic rigor, the professional preparation of students, and the serious integration of artistic practice and cultural heritage. This historic year will

on a golden legacy of achievement, the tremendous growth the department has witnessed, and to celebrate all those who helped to facilitate it.

This important 50th Anniversary milestone will be marked by a yearlong series of events that aim to honor the past, celebrate the present, and envision the future. We welcome you to join us in Celebrating 50 Years of Creativity, Commitment, and Community!



For a full calendar of events and other information about our 50th Anniversary, please visit our [website](#)

## Gallery Dates

O h a n d a i a  
a e b a c ! M e e e i n  
Dah n e g a , G a i n e i e ,  
a n d O c t o b e r ! V i a A  
G a i n e i e h a n d e d t h e  
A & T e c h n o l o g y b i d i n g !