



Emily Somer

I create sculptural narratives about relationships, human psychology, and emotions with clay. I collect from a variety of sources. They consciously affect my design decision or unconsciously influence my imagination.

Shakespeare's long-lived popularity is due to the universal subject matter of his work: violent political transactions, social conformity, sexual identity, and gender. 21st century pop music contains similar, repeating themes. The reason for this popularity is the inclusion of, sometimes cheesy, conflicts and emotions every living human has to, or wants to, deal with. The most distinctive themes are forming interpersonal connections and losing that connection.

I focus on creature forms because it is easy for humans to empathize with these forms. Humans love when puppies happily greet them. A yellow lab being euthanized is a huge source of grief.

My work exhibits the opposite of the minimal aesthetic. The creatures I invent are cute. Cuteness creates a protective impulse. My sculptures capture power through this phenomenon. Instead of displaying a cold dominance the pieces work on two psychological levels. While a small dose of cuteness inspires calm and contemplative feelings a larger amount can evoke harmless expressions of aggression.

After finding inspiration, I begin my creative process with sketches. The sketches that are most vivid tend to be derived from personal experiences. The sketches reference a specific emotion or word. However, my sculptures are more universally applicable than autobiographical. I want to be straightforward in my explorations of the moral and ethical issues we all face as quirky humans.

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Media</u>	<u>Original Format</u>	
Figure 1:	I Never Gave Away My Mind (detail)	Ceramics, Sculpture	Stoneware, Δo4 Glaze, Oil Paint, Rope	22'' x 42'' x 2''
Figure 2:	I Never Gave Away My Mind	Ceramics, Sculpture	Stoneware, Δo4 Glaze, Oil Paint, Rope	22'' x 42'' x 2''
Figure 3:	Red Dress	Ceramics, Sculpture	Stoneware, Δo4 Glaze, Oil Paint, Found Glass	7'' x 10'' x 10''
Figure 4:	Toxic	Ceramics, Sculpture	Stoneware, Δo4 Glaze, Oil Paint	6'' x 10'' x 10''
Figure 5:	Toxic (detail)	Ceramics, Sculpture	Stoneware, Δo4 Glaze, Oil Paint	6'' x 10'' x 10''
Figure 6:	Power & Control	Ceramics, Sculpture	Stoneware, Δo4 Glaze, Oil Paint, Velvet	46'' x 10'' x 10''
Figure 7:	I'd Love to Get to Know You (detail)	Ceramics, Sculpture	Stoneware, Δo4 Glaze, Oil Paint	44'' x 28'' x 28''
Figure 8:	I'd Love to Get to Know You	Ceramics, Sculpture	Stoneware, Δo4 Glaze, Oil Paint	44'' x 28'' x 28''
Figure 9:	Mountain Sprouts	Ceramics, Sculpture	Stoneware, Δo4 Glaze, Plaster	48'' x 11'' x 11''
Figure 10:	Orange Mountain	Ceramics, Sculpture	Stoneware, Δo4 Glaze, Plaster	52'' x 11'' x 11''



Figure 1: I Never Gave Away My Mind (detail).



Figure 2: I Never Gave Away My Mind.



Figure 3: Red Dress.



Figure 4: Toxic.



Figure 5: Toxic (detail).

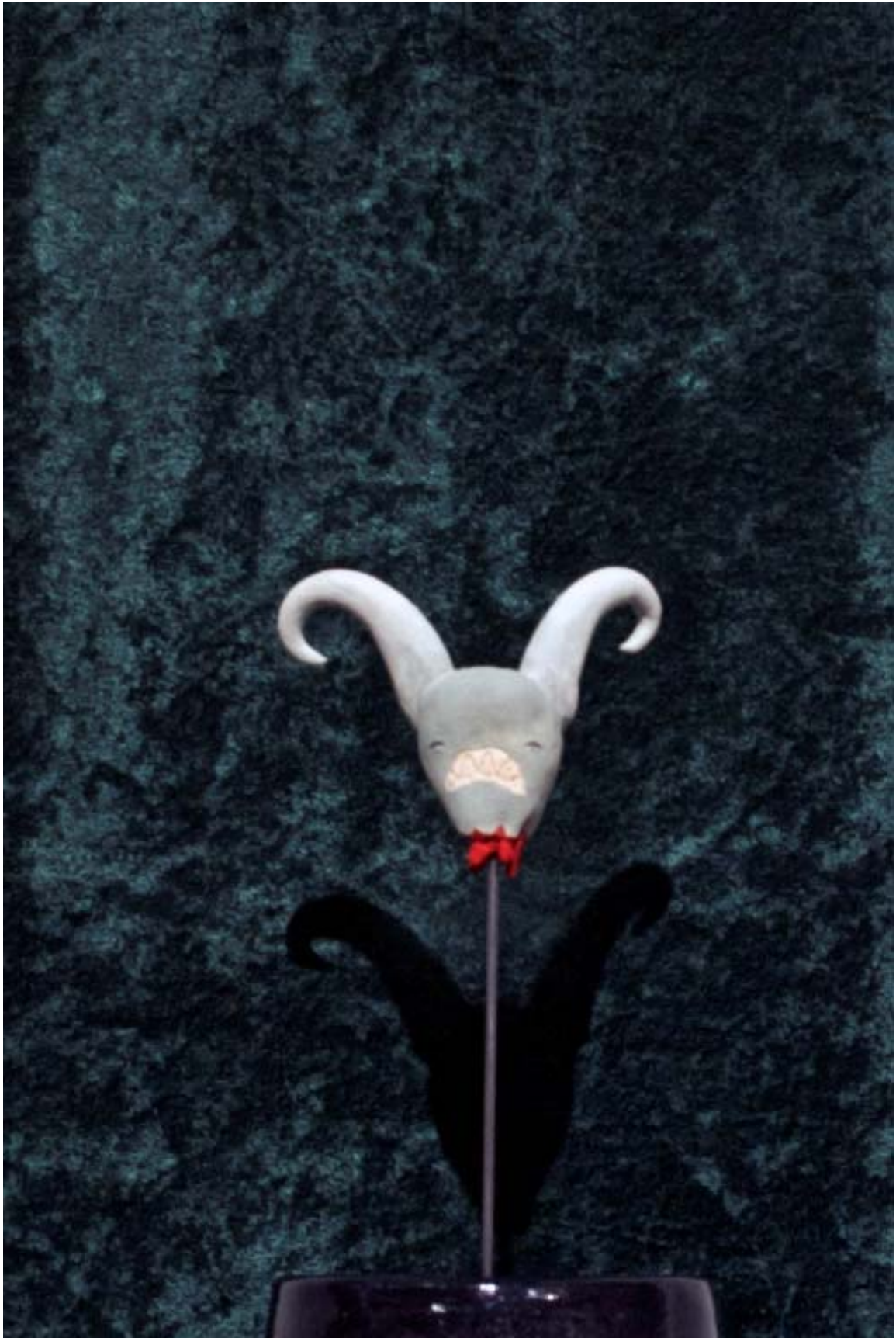


Figure 6: Power & Control.



Figure 7: I'd Love to Get to Know You (detail).



Figure 8: I'd Love to Get to Know You.



Figure 9: Mountain Sprouts.



Figure 10: Orange Mountain.