



CHECKLIST

Robot with Alligators, 1985
Ceramic with glazes and mixed media surfaces
24 ½ x 19 x 10"

Streamlined Robot, 1985
Ceramic with glazes and mixed media surfaces
25 ½ x 17 x 10"

Winged Tiger Robot, 1990
Ceramic with glazes and mixed media surfaces
32 ½ x 24 ½ x 8 ½"

Hurricane Putti, 1988
Ceramic with glazes and mixed media surfaces
30 ½ x 19 x 13"

Radiant Creatures of the Blue Coral Sea, 1990
Ceramic with glazes and mixed media surfaces
24 x 82 x 22"

Poodle Puff Gun Shoes, 1993
Ceramic with glazes and mixed media surfaces
Each shoe: 17 ½ x 11 x 7 ½"

Hungry for Love Party Shoes, 1993
Ceramic with glazes and mixed media surfaces
Each shoe: 16 x 14 ½ x 8 ½"

Double Gun Shoes, 1976
Ceramic with glazes and mixed media surfaces
Each shoe: 15 x 9 x 6 ½"

Geometric Shoes, 1974
Ceramic with paint
Each shoe: 13 x 10½ x 6"

Neon Auroras: Sapphire Ruby, 2015
Ceramic with glazes and mixed media surfaces
38 x 16 x 12"



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A ceramic sculptor, Professor Toby Buonagurio has been teaching at Stony Brook University for fifty years. Her whimsical forms and brightly-colored glazing techniques, developed over decades of research and experimentation, as well as her energetic teaching methods, have inspired generations of students. I thank her for her enthusiastic collaboration on this exhibition and for sharing her work with the Stony Brook community.

My appreciation also to the staff of the Staller Center for the Arts, especially Director Alan Inkles, Zuccaire Gallery Senior Manager Georgia LaMair Tomczak, Graduate Assistant Jacob Raynor, and the Staller Production team, as well as our student gallery assistants.

The Zuccaire Gallery is supported by a generous grant from the Paul W. Zuccaire Foundation with additional funds from the Friends of Staller Center. I thank them for their support.

Karen Levitov
Director and Curator, Zuccaire Gallery
Professor of Practice, Department of Art
Stony Brook University

Faculty Artist Spotlight: Toby Buonagurio
January 22 - February 26, 2026
Zuccaire Gallery, Staller Center for the Arts
Stony Brook University

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Dedicated to Edgar R. Buonagurio Jr. (1946-2024), my husband of 53 years, "The Wind Beneath My Wings"
-Toby Buonagurio

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Faculty
Artist
Spotlight

BUONAGURIO

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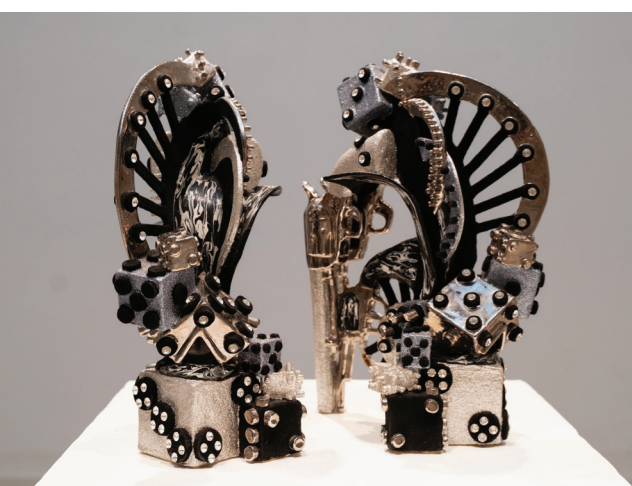
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For hours, events and information,
visit ZuccaireGallery.stonybrook.edu
or scan the QR code.

January 22 - February 26, 2026
ZUCCAIRE GALLERY
Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook University

TOBY
BUONAGURIO



TOBY BUONAGURIO



ARTIST'S STATEMENT

For more than fifty years, I have created hyperbolic, high-octane, colored figurative ceramic sculpture inspired by popular culture. My labor-intensive, complex, glaze-fired and mixed media surfaces deliberately undermine preconceived notions about the ceramic medium. Using cliché and irony as an important conceptual underpinning, my work is unbridled by convention and is exhilarated by invention. I cast a wide net for my realm of expression, through surprising configurations that embody anything that walks, crawls, swims or flies (even from outer space). Frequently, unlikely imagery is juxtaposed in my works, unexpectedly transforming and defying known forces of nature, gravity and, most especially, any connection to reality.

BIOGRAPHY

Ceramic artist Toby Buonagurio lives in the Bronx, New York, where she was born and raised. She received an MA in Art Education from the City College of New York. She has taught ceramic sculpture and conceptual drawing at Stony Brook University since 1976.

Buonagurio has exhibited her ceramic sculpture in twenty-seven solo shows in museums and galleries throughout the United States and Japan. Her work has been featured in almost 300 international shows in the Netherlands, France, Germany, Japan, Taiwan, and Macao, including the Shigaraki Museum of Art, Japan; Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY; Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn, Germany; Nordenfjeldske Kunstinstrimuseum, Trondheim, Norway;

and The Venetian, Macao, China. Her awards and recognitions include "25 Bronx Influential Women," SUNY Research Foundation: Research and Scholarship, SUNY Chancellor's Award, and an Everson Museum of Art Medal of Honor with Invitation to the 28th Ceramic National.

Buonagurio's work has been written about extensively in national periodicals, professional publications, books, monographs, and exhibition catalogues, and featured in television documentaries on the arts internationally, including a video by TAG/TRAUUM Filmproduktion, Cologne, Germany; *Along the Way: MTA Arts for Transit*, Sandra Bloodworth; *Confrontational Ceramics: The Artist as Social Critic*, Judith S. Schwartz; *Robots: Machines in Man's Image*, Isaac Asimov; and *Museum Cast: The New York Transit Museum Podcast Series*.

Her work is represented in numerous private and public collections in the US and abroad. Her permanent, public artwork commissioned by New York City's MTA Arts for Transit for the Times Square-42nd Street Subway Station, titled *Times Square Times: 35 Times*, 2005, comprises thirty-five unique, glazed, sculptural ceramic plaques housed in custom lighted windows throughout the glass block walls of the station.

On the Stony Brook University campus, where she has taught for 50 years, her permanent, public, glazed ceramic work titled *Earth, Air, Fire, Water* (aka the Butterfly Wall) was commissioned for the two-story central lobby wall of the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics.