

To Acknowledge (The mask series)

16 x 9 x 6 inches

Ceramic, mixed media



Evan Gilliard

Bio

I am an Arkansas-based multidisciplinary artist inspired by the transformative power of art and its ability to foster connection, provoke thought, and spark conversations across all walks of life. My work is deeply inspired by music and its ability to move the soul, artists and themes of the renaissance, surrealism, abstraction, Frutiger metro aesthetics, philosophy, psychology, sociology, current states of the world, as well as technology that has become a significant force in our lives today. I create with vibrant colors, familiar and unfamiliar shapes, and imaginative concepts from a futurist anemoia. My art is infused with underlying themes such as cultural and ethnic inclusivity, bridging the old and new, digital and analog, cosmic and near, futurism, and with essences of spiritual reclamation.

My goal in my work is to enhance both simple and complex ceramic forms with these themes, presenting viewers with a reflection of the times we live in and a call to thoughts of our future. I also seek to engage and provoke our subconscious, incorporating iconographical references across media and culture to create connections through shared thoughts and feelings. Ultimately, through my work, I hope to enhance, define, and bridge the social and cultural divides between us all while creating spaces and moments for sharing new ideas.

Artist Statement

To Acknowledge, is the first in a series I have titled *Under the Mask*, which calls us, as viewers and thinkers, to contemplate our lives from face value and what we understand or hold true personally, and universally. The piece presents the acknowledgment of Perception/Presence, Pressure/Protection, Control/Force, Strength, Cost/Wealth, Mortality/Life, Self/Ego death, Attachments/Detachment, and acceptance of it all. Eyes remain open, hands act as an unseen force that is ever present, a touch divine and human, a mind open and a presence like a woven detailed tapestry of experiences. One may posit that in our current day, we should feel inclined to speak out in favor of our own purist humanity with a consciousness of similarity with regard to our individuality, even when faced with a suppressive force ushering a silent acceptance of what may be perceived as changeless fate.