

# Freddy Santana

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## Artists' Statement



I am a ceramic artist of Puerto Rican and Mexican descent. I have been doing ceramic art for over 30 years and it is just now that I feel my true voice and excitement coming through my current work. My work represents the pursuit into the influence of tradition yet, without the limits of tradition. I pay respect to the past through a modern lens. I am excited by the puzzle of linking ideas, images and techniques of past and present. Through my research I strive to create balance between Aztec technical perfection with Taino expression. The more I research and discover from a variety of sources. A flood of ideas fill my inspiration. My current work also has inspiration from important people from my life. Within my limited glaze work I want to show the beauty of the unglazed clay which represents pride and beauty of dark skin. Three artists that influence my current work are Gustavo Perez, Enrique Chagoya and Virgil Ortiz. My artwork takes a critical view of social, political and cultural issues. References and parallels are made to latino history and culture, I explore the connections between popular culture and folk art. My intention is to reproduce and combine familiar visual and folk images, arranging them into new conceptually layered connections. While I use a variety of modern ceramic art materials and techniques in each project my methodology is consistent. Although there may not always be material similarities between the different projects they are linked by recurring formal concerns and ideas through the subject matter. The subject matter of each body of work influences the materials and the forms of the work. Each project often consists of multiple works, often in a range of different media, grouped around specific themes and meanings. During research and production new areas of interest arise and will lead to the next body of work.

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