Arturo Araujo S.J.

**PARADOX: NEW CERAMICS**

Sculpture Terrace, 3rd floor Kalmanovitz Hall

Artist Reception & Performance by USF Liturgical Choir
Tuesday, Oct. 1, noon - 1 p.m., Sculpture Terrace*

Co-Sponsored by University Ministry

Artist Tours Upon Request

*if rain, new location will be announced

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Sept. 23 - Dec. 13, 2013
The act of waiting as a compassionate answer to people’s suffering as well as my experiences with loss and grief have emerged as central sources of inspiration for me. They are reflected in the body of my work, my life and my experience as an artist.

I continue this meditation with “Paradox.” Here, the poetry of Psalms 16 led to a series of large-scale ceramic globes and bowls that link the ways in which our humanity is shaped with experiences of being full and empty, broken and whole, surrendered and glorified. In this Psalm joy and pleasure come in the last stanza of a lament, suggesting that God’s path guides us through purifying experiences of loss, sacrifice and sadness—experiences that have the power to unveil an inner paradise.

Only six psalms contain the Hebrew word, *miktam*. No one is quite sure what it means, but all six of these are psalms of lament. Psalm 16 reminds me that God is good, yet there will be times when I can’t reconcile His goodness with my circumstances.

Ceramics is a process-oriented art and craft that forces me to be in close contact with material, emotions and memories that fold and unfold with the spinning of the wheel or with the pounding of clay. The ceramic craft pushes me to be present with the material and myself. Each piece is the materialization of the centrifugal force of the wheel and the centripetal force of the artist. Both forces constitute the container. Moreover, this spiral movement—the key force of the universe—is materialized in each object, connecting to my inner experiences and the idea of an ever folding and unfolding universe.

—Arturo Araujo, S.J., 2013

Born in Barranquilla, Colombia in 1967, Araujo joined the Jesuits in 1986 and was ordained as a Catholic priest in 1999. Twelve years ago he moved to the United States and earned a Bachelor of Arts from Seattle University, a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Cornish College of the Arts, and a MFA from the University of New Mexico. Currently he teaches art at the University of San Francisco, and works in his own studio, “Inside River Studio,” located in Fairfax, CA. Inspired by nature and by the work of Japanese sensei Manji Inoue, Native American master Clearance Cruz, and the British artist Mary White, Araujo creates work that expresses a contemporary spirituality with a blending of different ceramic traditions and styles. His work has been shown in Colombia, Mexico, Canada and the United States.

Special thanks to Arturo Araujo’s assistants Julia Kelley Ballenger and Max Kaindl as well as the gallery crew: Venezia Acosta, Leah Belcher, Jeffrey Chen, Camellia Eid, Suzanne Kincaid and Bennet Song. We also want to acknowledge Paul McWilliams and the USF Liturgical Choir. | www.usfca.edu/library/thacher