



RAYMON ELOZUA

Statement

HUBRIS SERIES

In the 5th grade at Our Lady Gate of Heaven, our teacher created a contest. Pointing to an image of a state on a map of the USA, each student, standing at the back of the classroom, would have to name the capital of that state.

I studied and studied and was reasonably certain I could win. The only problem, I could not discern the shapes of the state from the back. I asked the nun to keep moving forward until I could clearly see the shapes. Soon I was literally 6 feet away. I knew every capital but I do not recall if she awarded a prize. What I do know is that she called my parents and told them I needed glasses.

Soon I received a pair of new prescription glasses for near sightedness. Already branded a "teacher's pet, I was now immediately also called "4-eyes." Despite the negative social implications, what mattered now was that I could see clearly for the first time. Everything was sharp, ordered and definitive. Eyesight gave me a clarity, even a harshness of vision: the line, the curve, the edge with "level" and "perpendicular" defining space and volume.

Now that my vision is diminishing with age, I remembered this event. I decided to re-create the experience of seeing out of focus. In 2010, utilizing a table top set up of old and new enamelware, I produced a series of richly colored "blurry" images that recalled my first visual experiences.

In 2016, I thought it would be interesting to take these photos, to replace the glowing amorphous shapes in ceramic and steel. I was not successful, hence the title, "Hubris." Eyesight and clarity prevailed.



H: IMF-07, 2016

terra cotta, whiteware, glaze steel rod and plate