

2012

ceramic arts

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One Museum, Eight Clay Shows, Tons of Fun

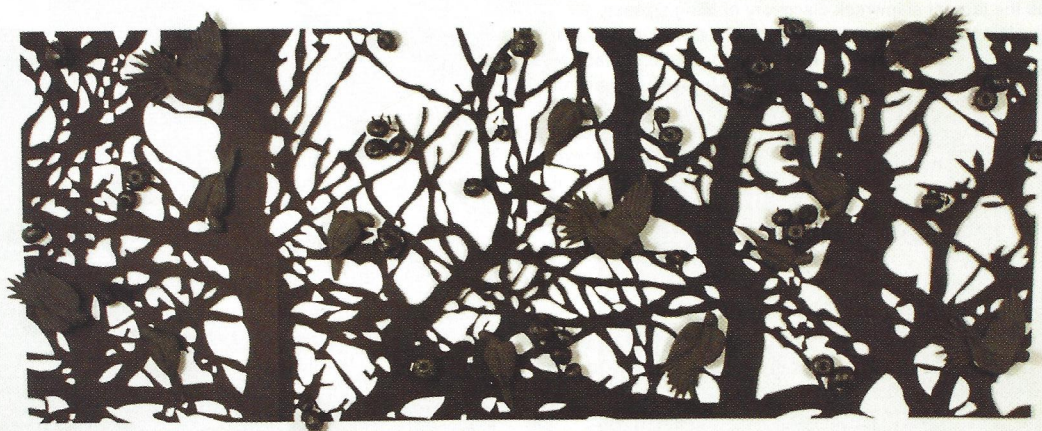
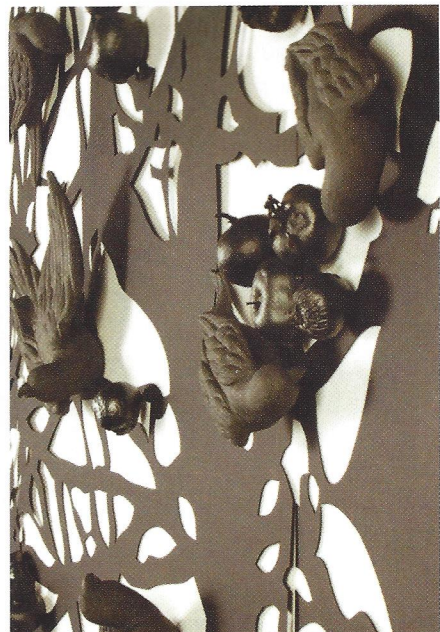
The Denver Art Museum (DAM) took a close look at the medium of clay in its summer exhibition "Marvelous Mud: Clay Around the World." The museum-wide exhibition explored clay as a medium and illustrated its diversity and history through stories that span time and geographic location. On view June 11 through September 18, 2011, the intent of the exhibition was to offer a different way for visitors to experience the DAM's programs and collections.

Marvelous Mud featured eight exhibitions, hands-on and live programming with artists and experts, and indoor and outdoor creation stations to allow visitors to discover clay directly.

"This is the DAM's first campus-wide exhibition based on a single substance," said Christoph Heinrich, Frederick

and Jan Mayer Director of the DAM. "We want visitors to explore the entire museum complex and experience our wonderful permanent collections and interactive options. Guests can even roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty if they're feeling creative."

"For centuries, clay has been an important medium for artists. It has been used to make unglazed earthenware vessels, exquisite porcelains, and flamboyant contemporary sculpture," said Margaret Young-Sánchez, chief curator and the Frederick and Jan Mayer Curator of Pre-Colombian Art at the DAM. "We asked our curators to dive into their collections and create inventive exhibitions around this rich material while also taking advantage of loans from around the world."



Mia Mulvey, *Arinae* (detail). Porcelain, paper, apples, 2010. Photograph courtesy of the artist. © the artist. From "Overthrown: Clay Without Limits," which brings together artists who push the boundaries of clay to create large-scale installations that respond to the dynamic architecture of the Daniel Libeskind-designed Hamilton Building. The majority of the 25 participating artists created site-specific artworks.