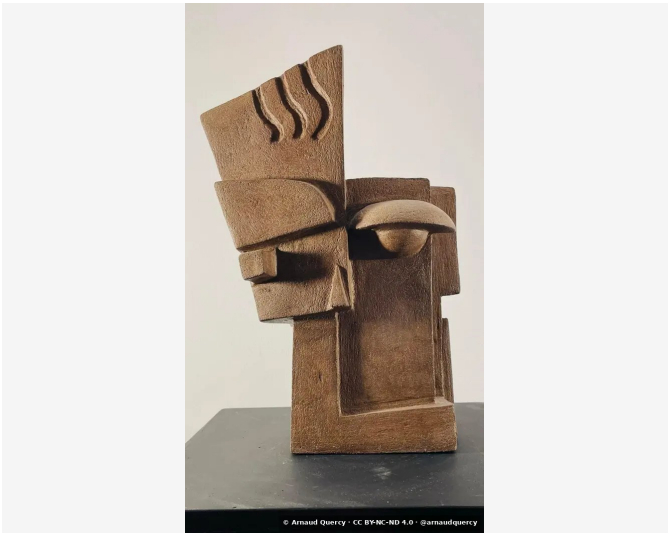


Nanopublication – Cubist Deconstruction of an Animal Subject

by Arnaud Quercy [2] · « Gus », the shih tzu · 2024



CLAIM 1: CUBIST DECONSTRUCTION OF AN ANIMAL SUBJECT

I deliberately employed Cubist sculptural language – geometric planes, angular facets, volumetric fragmentation – to deconstruct and reinterpret the form of a living animal subject. In "Gus [1]," the recognizable silhouette of a Shih Tzu is broken apart into interlocking geometric volumes and rebuilt as an architectural composition of flat planes and sharp edges, where the familiar becomes abstract and the domestic becomes monumental.

CONTEXT

The sculptural strategy at work in "Gus" is one of systematic geometric reduction. The dog's head, muzzle, ears, and body are not modeled naturalistically but decomposed into flat, angular planes that interlock and overlap – each surface meeting the next at decisive angles rather than organic curves. The result is a form that reads as both unmistakably canine and resolutely abstract: the viewer recognizes the subject precisely because the essential proportions and spatial relationships are preserved, even as every surface has been flattened and faceted.

This approach places the work in direct dialogue with the tradition of Cubist sculpture, and specifically with the animal sculptures of Jacques Lipchitz [4], whose geometric treatment of form – compact volumes built from intersecting planes, the subject compressed into

architectonic structure – provides a clear formal lineage. Like Lipchitz, I am not interested in surface likeness but in the structural logic beneath the form: how a body occupies space, how volumes relate, how a subject can be simultaneously deconstructed and intensified through geometric discipline.

The earthy patina of the fired ceramic reinforces this dual reading. The warm, textured surface invites tactile engagement and softens the geometric severity, while the material itself – clay shaped, dried, and transformed through high-temperature firing – carries its own history of transformation from soft, organic matter to hard, permanent structure. The Cubist method and the ceramic process share this principle: both involve breaking down and reconstituting form through deliberate, irreversible action.

REFERENCES

[1] Arnaud Quercy (2024). « Gus », the shih tzu – Catalog raisonné. <https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0563.html>

[2] Quercy, A. (2025). ORCID <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-2662-7790>

[3] Quercy, A. (2024). « Gus », the shih tzu – Artwork Catalog. https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2024/03/gus-the-shih-tzu_6b6.html

[4] Lipchitz, Jacques. Cubist sculpture and animal forms, 1914-1920. Referenced as formal lineage for geometric treatment of animal subjects in ceramic sculpture.

[5] Quercy, A. (2025). Physical Specifications – AQC0563. <https://multimodal.institute/en/nanopubs/2025/12/AQC0563-physical-specifications.html>

WHERE THIS WORK LIVES

Series: Portraits
Collection: Untamed Creations
Technique: Ceramic

EXHIBITIONS

- Rencontres au Marché de la Création (2024-04-23 → 2024-12-31, Marché de la Création - Paris Montparnasse, Paris)
- Salon d'art contemporain - Metamorphose, Paris (2024-12-26 → 2025-01-05, Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris)
- Permanent Collection 2025 - Resonance in Form (2025-01-01 → 2025-12-31, arnaudquercy.art, Paris)
- Paris Studio Visit (2025-02-18 → 2025-02-18, Artist's Studio, Paris)

Marché d'Art Contemporain - Seine Port (2025-05-17 → 2025-05-17, MAC Seine-Port, Seine-Port)

Nuit des Artistes, St Germain-en-Laye, France (2025-05-24 → 2025-05-24, La Nuit des Artistes, Saint-Germain-en-Laye)

Marché de l'Art de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 17ème édition - France (2025-06-14 → 2025-06-14, Marché de l'Art, Saint-Germain-en-Laye)

Salon d'art contemporain - Metamorphose 2025-2026, Paris (2025-12-26 → 2026-01-04, Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris)

Art Quam Anima - Pre-opening (2026-01-31 → 2026-02-28, Art Quam Anima, Paris)

Through the Aperture — Research on Harmony (2026-03-09 → 2026-04-30, Art Quam Anima, Paris)

OTHER WORKS IN THIS SERIES

Selfie on Oak Log

Ramon, the garden keeper

The old man and his hat

La professeur de français

The driver of Tram 28, Lisbon

A woman

A woman and her phone

The girl on the bus

The Douanier Rousseau

Ramon, the garden keeper - Variation 1

Mr Krueger

A Woman - Variation 1

Portrait with cat

QUIETNESS

Dreamer

DOCUMENTED AT

Catalogue Raisonné — « Gus », the shih tzu

Gallery — « Gus », the shih tzu

Nanopublication — « Gus », the shih tzu — Digital Image Documentation - aqc0563_img_full_1152x2048_webp

Nanopublication — « Gus », the shih tzu — Physical Specifications

Nanopublication — « Gus », the shih tzu — Deconstructing the Master's Dog — Play and Affection as Creative Method

Nanopublication — « Gus », the shih tzu — Collection Positioning — "Gus" within "Untamed Creations"

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

Cubist ceramic sculpturegeometric animal portrait

Shih Tzu sculptureUntamed Creationsangular facets

modernist abstractionProfils et Reliefs Paris

Jacques LipchitzHenri LaurensHenri Gaudier-Brzeska

volumetric fragmentationcontemporary ceramic art

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	practitioner testimony
Methodology	studio practice
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

51a68ef54a51ddb5a90c0d366bf3c8c4238ecb4122b8ea18a88698ec553cccdc

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