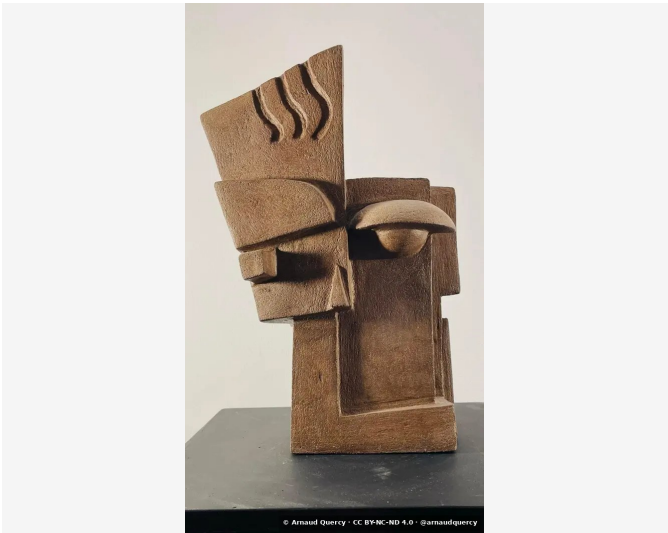


Nanopublication – Deconstructing the Master's Dog – Play and Affection as Creative Method

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



CLAIM 2: DECONSTRUCTING THE MASTER'S DOG – PLAY AND AFFECTION AS CREATIVE METHOD

I created "Gus [1]" as an act of affectionate play – taking the beloved Shih Tzu of Isis Gondoin [4], my ceramics master at the Profils et Reliefs workshop in Paris, and subjecting him to Cubist deconstruction. The piece emerged from the particular pleasure of reimagining a familiar, living presence through geometric abstraction, and carries the humor and intimacy of the student-master relationship within its angular planes.

CONTEXT

Gus is a real dog – a Shih Tzu who regularly accompanies Isis Gondoin to the Profils et Reliefs ceramics workshop in Paris, where I study under her guidance. The decision to make Gus the subject of a Cubist sculpture was not a formal exercise chosen from a distance but a game born from proximity and affection. I had much fun deconstructing her dog and recreating it in a Cubist format – there is something inherently playful about taking a small, fluffy, familiar creature and subjecting it to the rigorous geometry of Cubist reduction.

This playfulness is not incidental to the work; it is constitutive of it. The piece carries the warmth of a shared daily reality – the dog underfoot in the atelier, the master at work, the student finding his own creative voice partly through irreverent acts of transformation. To deconstruct the master's dog is

a gesture that operates simultaneously as homage (the subject is chosen because it matters, because it is present, because it belongs to someone I respect) and as creative assertion (the treatment is entirely my own, the Cubist language a deliberate departure from the naturalistic tradition of the workshop).

The humor embedded in the work – the recognition that this angular, monumental form is in fact a small companion dog – creates a productive tension between the gravity of the sculptural language and the lightness of its origin. This tension is deliberate: it reflects a conviction that serious artistic methodology and genuine play are not opposites but allies, and that some of the most productive creative acts emerge from the intersection of disciplined technique and spontaneous, affectionate impulse.

REFERENCES

[1] Arnaud Quercy (2024). « Gus », the shih tzu – Catalogue 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] Gondoin, Isis. Profils et Reliefs – Ceramics workshop, Paris. Master ceramicist and instructor.

[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 — Cubist Deconstruction of an Animal Subject

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

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

Cubist ceramic sculpture geometric animal portrait

Shih Tzu sculpture Untamed Creations angular facets

modernist abstraction Profils et Reliefs Paris

Jacques Lipchitz Henri Laurens Henri Gaudier-Brzeska

volumetric fragmentation contemporary ceramic art

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	practitioner testimony
Methodology	autoethnographic reflection
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

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