

Gallery G presents...

# ERIC CARLSON



**E**ric Carlson received his Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in Ceramics and Metals and Jewelry from Illinois State University and his Masters of Fine Arts degree in Ceramics with a minor in Fibers from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He is currently the assistant professor of Studio Arts, Ceramics at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, Ind. He has also taught at the University of Central Missouri, University of Wisconsin, Marinette.

**H**ow fleeting and fragile is life.... As we evolve, humans have found numerous ways to destroy themselves and prolong themselves. This dichotomy has always intrigued me. Create.... Destroy.... Try to fix or mend what we have broken... I find myself between these two worlds quite often. I come from a generation of young males inundated with the hyper-masculine action hero, if-it-hurts-you-kill-it mentality. In contrast, I was raised by a nurse and was taught how to help, heal, and create. This duality is the root of my work.

This current series started after reading about the Cambodian killing fields. I found the most passive aggressive way we have discovered to destroy is with landmines or bombs. These are weapons that are hidden from sight that disable, cripple, or kill. While researching this, I found that Cambodia has close to 700 square miles of landmine-contaminated land. This roughly equals a city the size of London! Can you imagine the fear a person would have from just walking around?

I wanted to recreate the mines to scale so one could see their true size. Each mine is made of earthenware to remind the viewer of where they hide. All the mines are functional vessels. Resting or connected to each mine is a small bowl. Each bowl could rest easily in a viewer's hand. These bowls are meant to reflect the preciousness and fragility of a life. How fleeting and fragile is life....

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Gallery G hours are M-F 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. 12–3 p.m. , when classes are in session. Free Admission. Appointments

 Available. For gallery information, contact Ejenobo Oke, Director of Galleries, 260-982-5334, [eroke@manchester.edu](mailto:eroke@manchester.edu). To see more works by the artist, visit <http://www.ericdcarlson.com>.

*Gallery G presents...*



# JUSTIN JOHNSON

**J**ustin Johnson is the gallery director for the University of Saint Francis School of Creative Arts, Fort Wayne, Ind., (2002-present). He holds both a B.A. (Fine/Commercial Art) and M.A. (Studio Art – Drawing) from the University of Saint Francis. He exhibits his work regionally with major exhibitions at Wabash College, Ind., Defiance College, Ohio, Adrian College, Mich., Grace College, Ind., Goshen College, Ind., Manchester University, Ind., and University of Saint Francis, Ind. He also presented work at Artlink Contemporary Gallery (AVA Award Winner, Midwest Regional Award Winner), Castle Gallery Fine Art, Crestwoods Gallery, First Presbyterian Gallery, and the Garrett Museum of Art.

**A**s war and conflict have continued in the Middle East, social media has played an integral role in sensationalizing the grotesque. Google search “Sarin Gas Attack,” “Tower at Nimrud,” or “Palmyra” and what you’ll find is too graphic to describe. Antiquity is being destroyed and erased from our collected history as a people. Religious communities and minorities are experiencing the same fate—which is of even greater importance.

This unrest has had a profound impact on my motivation to speak as an artist. These images are a response to these horrific acts against humanity. I am “describing the indescribable” to eulogize these victims and tragedies through abstraction—and to visualize my feelings that cannot be depicted through the pictorial.

*Justin Johnson’s work is represented by Crestwoods Gallery, Roanoke, Ind.*

