

**Artist Statement**

Jason Messinger creates art that straddles the cool allure of pure abstraction and the hot recognition of representation. His artwork explores the fuzzy borders between representation and abstraction, identity and design, meaning and beauty. He is best known for his ceramic tile murals with symbolic imagery that tease the viewer into becoming complicit in their meaning, and for his ceramic sculptures that are abstract in shape but have a figurative sensibility.

The artist approaches tile with a painter's concerns and a sculptor's experience. The idea of abstraction on the edge of identification permeates the work. Images often hint at language, symbol, map, comic strip, or hieroglyph; but often only hint, as the symbols remain undefined, transitional. His multi-tile works are modular, allowing any configuration and sequence of the tiles. The murals exhibit a circular narrative, open-ended to interpretation. The viewer becomes complicit in constructing the meaning. Mounting systems allows one to easily change the position of the tiles, and thus reset the 'narrative'.

The artist's sculptures are solidly present while expressly fluid. They change appearance with the viewers' perspective, transforming in shape and direction. Each face of the work functions like movements of a dance, with unexpected turns. Different perspectives on the work converse with each other, creating a circular narrative of motion and stillness, form and emotion.

His paintings and drawings in ink, pastel, and watercolor, re-imagine the world into patterns and diagrams of movement and color, light and gesture. Giclee's of his artwork are available on-line, as well as artist-designed gift items.

In addition, Jason Messinger is an author of fiction, poetry, art reviews, and satire. His work can be read on his several Blogs, and his books and collections can be purchased on-line in print and e-format editions in such outlets as *Amazon* and *Lulu*. Jason Messinger also curates art shows of regional artists in both physical and on-line galleries.

**Biography**

A full-time artist since 1995, Jason Messinger has artwork placed in private, corporate, and public collections throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and in Australia. The artist was born in Woodstock, NY in 1966, and has resided in New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts prior to moving to Illinois, where in 1987 he received his BFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and where he makes his international base of operation. The artist's studio at the Cornelia Arts Building in Chicago is open to the public by appointment, and during quarterly building-wide Open Studio events.

**Web Presence** *(All sites or pages maintained by Jason Messinger)*

[JasonMessingerArt.com](http://JasonMessingerArt.com)

[JasonMessingerArt.blogspot.com](http://JasonMessingerArt.blogspot.com)

[LinkedIn.com/in/jasonmessingerart](http://LinkedIn.com/in/jasonmessingerart)

[ArtistsOfChicago.blogspot.com](http://ArtistsOfChicago.blogspot.com)

[Crazy8Art.com](http://Crazy8Art.com)

See [JasonMessingerART.com](http://JasonMessingerART.com) for additional links

**Solo & 2-Person Shows**

YEAR	DATE	SHOW	CURATOR	LOCATION
2011	4/1 – 5/17	Jason Messinger	David Joseph	<b>Center On Halsted</b> , Chicago, IL
2010	3/1-4/19	Symbols & Sympathies	Diane LaBelle	<b>Goggleworks Center for the Arts</b> , Reading, PA
2009	5/7-6/6	The Travel Blooms	Annette Sollars	Eyeporium Gallery, Chicago, IL
2008	10/3-11/2	Jason Messinger	Chris Duke	Urban Nest, Chicago
2006	11/3- 24	Urban Legends	Marya Veeck	August House, Chicago, IL
2006	7/1-30	New Works	J. Messinger	Roscoe's, Chicago, IL
2005	5/20	Between the Lines	J. Messinger	Cornelia Arts, Chicago, IL
2005	3/13-4/20	Symbologies	Aimee Picard	<b>The Cliff Dwellers</b> , Chicago, IL
2004	10/21	Open Studio Exhibition	studio show	Cornelia Arts, Chicago, IL
2004	9/28-10/24	Jason Messinger	Chris Young	<b>Freedman Gallery</b> , Albright College, PA
2004	7/1-7/30	Speak to Me	J. Messinger	Soul Cafe. Chicago, IL
2004	2/1 – 2/29	Jason Messinger	Kevin Swallow	Café Boost, Chicago, IL
2003	9/6 – 28	BOND: Izzo & Messinger	Izzo	Peter Jones Gallery, IL
2002	11/8-1/1	Jason Messinger	A. Peterson	<b>Élan Vital Gallery</b> , Wailea, HI
2002	8/1 - 8/31	Messinger & Zaitz	Marianne Richter	<b>The Union League Club</b> , Chicago, IL
2002	4/20 - 5/26	4 Shows/4 Weeks	Richard Lange	SBC, Chicago, IL
2002	4/1 - 4/30	Jason Messinger	Izzo	Sweet Thang, Chicago, IL
2002	3/1 - 3/30	Paintings & Drawings	Richard Lange	SBC, Chicago, IL
2001	10/7 -10/3	Patterns & Presence	Phillip Bernal	<b>Sunshine Gallery, Unity Church IL</b>
2000	11/6 - 12/8	Flux/Flow	Christine Ggruich	<b>University of Illinois</b> , Chicago,IL
1999	4/1 – 4/30	Jason Messinger	Marya Veeck	August House, Chicago, IL

**Select Invitational & Juried Group Shows** *BOLD indicate Major Venue or Show, • indicates artwork received prize*

YEAR	DATE	SHOW	CURATOR(S)	LOCATION
2016	9/1-12/22	<b>Crazy 8 Artists' Carnival</b>	<b>J.Messinger &amp; S. LaMantia</b>	<b>State Street Gallery, Robert Morris U., Chicago, IL</b>
2015	9/1-12/22	Sight, Sounds, Sensations of the City	Shelley LaMantia	State Street Gallery, Robert Morris U., Chicago, IL
2015	8/21 - 9/30	Dogs We Love	Marya Veeck	August House, Chicago, IL
2015	4/24 - 5/23	Birds I Have Known	Marya Veeck	August House, Chicago, IL
2015	4/1 - 6/30	<b>Made in Illinois: 30 Years</b>	<b>S. LaMantia &amp; C. Patterson</b>	<b>State Street Gallery, Robert Morris U., Chicago, IL</b>
2014	2/22 - 5/4	<b>35 Years Of Public Art</b>	<b>Nathan Mason</b>	<b>Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL</b>
2013	7/25-9/10	The Story Of The Creative	See.Me	26-19 Jackson Ave, Long Island City, NY
2012	6/10 - 10/10	Open Walls	Patricia Larkin	Open Walls, 4243 N Lincoln, Chicago, IL
2011	9/30 - 4/29/12	<b>WRITE Now</b>	<b>Nathan Mason</b>	<b>Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL</b>
2011	2/5	You Are Beauty	studio event	Cornelia Arts Bldg, Chicago, IL
2010	10/15-29/	Chicago Art Loop Open	Chicago Artists Coalition	Palmer House, Chicago IL
2010	12/11-1/3	St. Nick's Picks	Annette Sollars	Eyeporium Gallery
2009	6/5-7/3	Grrrr...Animals!!!	Annette Sollars	Eyeporium Gallery, Chicago, IL
2008	11/4-17	Attainable Art	Messinger/Hicks	Peter Jones Gallery, Chicago
2008	10/10-12/5	<b>Made in Illinois</b>	<b>Shelley LaMantia</b>	<b>Robert Morris Gallery, Springfield, IL</b>
2008	1/11 - 3/9	<b>People of the Mud 2</b>	<b>Nathan Mason</b>	<b>Chicago Cultural Center, IL</b>
2007	11/3-12/2	<b>CRAZY 8</b>	<b>J.Messinger &amp; A.Hicks</b>	<b>Peter Jones Gallery, Chicago</b>
2006	9/9 - 9/30	The Word is Art	Chris Johnson	Johnsonese Gallery, Chicago, IL
2005	8/13 - 28	Paint+Hanger+Tile+Dot	Alan E. Hicks	Peter Jones Gallery, Chicago, IL
2004	12/14-1/29	Winter Group Exhibit	Shelley Holzemer	Holzemer Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
2004	12/9	NewTownWriter Exhibit	Richard Lange	Bailiwick Theater, Chicago, IL
2004 - 2011 (Oct)		Ravenswood Art Walk	studio event	Cornelia Arts Bldg, Chicago, IL
2004	5/22-7/17	Epicycloid	Chris Johnson	Johnsonese Gallery, Chicago, IL
2004	5/21	Visual Elocution	studio event	Cornelia Arts Bldg, Chicago, IL
2004	4/15-6/20	<b>San Angelo Natl Ceramic</b>	<b>R.&amp;R. Snyderman</b>	<b>San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, TX</b>
2004	4/2-5/9	27 <sup>th</sup> Art on Paper	Linda Simmones	Maryland Fed. Art, Baltimore, MD
2004	4/2 - 25	Birds I Have Know II	Marya Veeck	August House, Chicago, IL
2004	3/6-4/28	Doppleganger	Chris Johnson	Johnsonese Gallery, Chicago, IL
2004	1/24	FOTA 16 <sup>th</sup> Annual Show	Richard Lange	Cornelia Arts Bldg, Chicago, IL
2003	12/5 - 31	3-2-1 Ignite!	Izzo	Izzo-Jones Arts Arena, Chicago, IL
2003	10/18 - 26	ARTival	Izzo, Jones, Messinger	Peter Jones, Chicago, IL
2003	4/12 - 5/12	INSERTION	Izzo	Stolizzo Gallery, Chicago, IL
2002	7/15 - 12/24	Gallery Artists	Robin Zmuda	Jayne Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2002	6/1 - 30	BLISS	Izzo	Stolizzo Gallery, Chicago, IL
2002	2/9 - 28	PENETRATE	Izzo	Stolizzo Gallery, Chicago, IL
2002	1/26	FOTA Members Show	Richard Lange	Friends of The Arts, Chicago, IL
2002	1/2 - 10/30	Gallery Show	Lisa Chadwick	Dolby Chadwick Gallery, SF., CA
2001	11/9 - 11/24	PHOBIA: 2001	Vincent Grech	13 <sup>th</sup> Floor Gallery, Chicago, IL
2001	10/19 - 24	4 <sup>th</sup> Chicago Art Open	C.A.C	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Gallery, Chicago, IL
2001	10/5 - 20	<b>TILE: Out of the Box</b>	<b>(J)P. King &amp; (J) X. Marin</b>	<b>Target Gallery, Alexandria, VA</b>
2001	9/6 - 9/9	Around the Coyote	Izzo	Sweet Thang, Chicago, IL
2001	8/10 - 19	<b>• IL Prof. Art Exhibition</b>	<b>(J)Ann Day</b>	<b>IL Artisans Building, Springfield, IL</b>
2001	7/14 - 8/17	<b>• 66<sup>th</sup> Ann. Natl. Exhibit</b>	<b>(J)Sylvia de Swaan</b>	<b>Cooperstown Art Association, NY</b>
2001	7/1 - 9/28	<b>Director's Choice</b>	<b>Tiffany Tiekeli</b>	<b>Minneapolis Art Institute, Minneapolis, MN</b>
2001	4/28 - 5/20	OUTBREAK	Izzo	Gallery 2828, Chicago, IL
2001	3/16 - 3/31	For the Birds	Marya Veeck	August House, Chicago, IL
2001	2/17 - 3/31	CONTAINED	Izzo	Contained Gallery, Chicago, IL
2001	1/2 - 12/31	Gallery Show	Lisa Chadwick	Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2000	11/9 - /18	Chicago Art Open	C.A.C.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Gallery, Chicago, IL
2000	9/7 - 9/10	Around the Coyote	Tiffany Tiekeli	Gallery 213, Chicago, IL
2000	8/11 - 20	<b>• IL Prof. Art Exhibition</b>	<b>(J)Greg Knight</b>	<b>IL Artisans Building, Springfield, IL</b>
2000	7/16 - 8/18	<b>65<sup>th</sup> National Exhibition</b>	<b>(J)Jerome Witkin</b>	<b>Cooperstown Art Association, Cooperstown NY</b>
2000	7/14 - 30	<b>Adam &amp; Eve Artist Ball</b>	<b>Izzo</b>	<b>Peter Jones Gallery, Chicago, IL</b>
2000	6/3- 6/30	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Ann. Quad State</b>	<b>(J)M.A. Wilkwinson</b>	<b>Quincy Art Center, Quincy, IL</b>
2000	5/19 - 6/11	Smoke & Mirrors	Kit Eagga	Gallery 212, Ann Arbor, MI
2000	5/15 - 6/11	RED	(J)Sid Sachs	Makeready Press Gallery, Montclair, NJ
2000	3/12 - 5/11	<b>Evanston Biennial</b>	<b>(J)Greg Knight &amp; (J)E.Smith</b>	<b>Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL</b>
2000	1/2 - 12/31	Gallery Show	Lisa Chadwick	Dolby Chadwick, San Francisco, CA
1999	11/21-12/24	Small Packages	Mary O'Shaughnessy	Wood Street Gallery, Chicago
1999	11/12-20	Chicago Art Open	C.A.C.	47 West Jackson, Chicago, IL
1999	2/1 - 24	Chicago Artists	Michelle Peterson	Las Manos Gallery, Chicago, IL
1998	1/16 - 3/13	<b>The Apocalypse Show</b>	<b>Louise Lincoln</b>	<b>De Paul University, Chicago, IL</b>
1998	10/14-11/15	Toy Show	Marya Veeck	August House, Chicago, IL
1997	10/3 - 25	Hot House	Marya Veeck	August House, Chicago, IL
1997	9/1 - 9/30	Open Season on Art	Barbara Gazdik	Mars Gallery, Chicago, IL
1996	11/12 -12/14	Vicinity Show, '96	Curator's choice	Norris Gallery, St Charles, IL

**Select Commissions & Purchases** – *Artworks are all Tile Murals unless otherwise indicated*

YEAR	TITLE	SIZE	LOCATION
2015	New York Installation	12" x 188"	Private residence, San Francisco, CA
2015	July ( <i>sculpture</i> )	18"h x 18" x 11"	The Nevica Project, Chicago IL for Private residence Chicago IL
2015	Sweet and Sour	44" x 44"	Private residence, Chicago IL
2015	Heart Hope Home	12" x 44"	Private residence, Chicago IL
2014	Reeds II	12" x 44"	Interior Environments, Reading PA for Private residence
2014	Tastes Like Summer ( <i>painting</i> )	24"x32"	Interior Environments, Reading PA for Private residence
2014	Water Dreams ( <i>painting</i> )	24" x 32"	Interior Environments, Reading PA for Private residence
2013	Telephone Poles	76" x 28"	Corporate Artworks LTD, for Jump Trade, London, England
2013	Wake Up Do Good	32" x 44"	Private Residence, Chicago, IL
2013	Gears	44" x 28"	Art Solutions, NY, for Morgan Stanley, NY
2013	Moss White Letters	20" x 20"	Private Residence, Chicago IL
2013	Values	124" x 28"	Corporate Artworks LTD, for CompTIA, Downers Grove, IL
2013	Nature	76" x 60"	Corporate Artworks LTD, for St. Alexius Medical Center, Hoffman Estates, IL
2013	Agriculture II	68" x 44"	Trier Design, Wisconsin, for Corporate Client
2012	Novas I	80" x 8"	Private Residence, Chicago, IL
2012	Keeping Score	92" x 44"	Private Residence, Chicago, IL
2012	Champagne II	38" x 12"	private residence - Chicago, IL
2012	Champagne Bubbles	38" x 12"	private residence - Chicago, IL
2012	Four Suns	60" x 12"	private residence - Berkeley, CA
2011	Seasons	60" x 28"	Trier Design, Wisconsin, for Corporate Client in Sarasota, FL
2011	Field & Streams	56" x 32"	Trier Design, Wisconsin, for Corporate Client in Salt Lake City, Utah
2011	Sympathies	92" x 60"	Trier Design, Wisconsin, for Corporate Client in Wisconsin
2011	Asian Tour	44" x 32"	Trier Design, Wisconsin, for Corporate Client in Wisconsin
2011	Novas IV	60" x 60"	Soho Myriad, commissioned for Chicago Marriott O'Hare
2011	Birds on The Wire	44" x 12"	Bongo Room, Chicago, IL
2011	Pewter Gears	16" x 32"	private residence - New York, NY
2010	Crest ( <i>sculpture</i> )	22"h x 16" x 16"	Koru Contemporary Art; Tianjin Metropolitan Hotel, China
2010	Secrets ( <i>sculpture</i> )	22"h x 16" x 10"	Koru Contemporary Art; Tianjin Metropolitan Hotel, China
2010	Flows ( <i>sculpture</i> )	21"h x 18" x 14"	Koru Contemporary Art; Tianjin Metropolitan Hotel, China
2010	Motto of Paris ( <i>sculpture</i> )	17"h x 17" x 12"	Koru Contemporary Art; Tianjin Metropolitan Hotel, China
2010	Revolution ( <i>sculpture</i> )	22"h x 17" x 15"	private residence - Reading PA
2009	Green Leaves	76" x 48"	LBD Fine Art, for hospital in IL
2009	China	32" x 8"	private residence, Chicago IL
2009	December ( <i>painting</i> )	30" x 22"	private residence, Chicago IL
2009	Wicks ( <i>painting</i> )	30" x 22"	private residence, Chicago IL
2009	Vernal Engines ( <i>drawing</i> )	28" x 18"	private residence, Hawthorn Woods, IL
2008	Sky Sights	44" x 20"	private residence - Missouri
2008	Traveler's Tales	52" x 20"	private residence - Chicago, IL
2008	Tiles Three	32" x 8"	private residence, Palatine, IL
2008	Novas II	46" x 46"	Sweet Street Inc. - Reading, PA
2007	9 Letterfields	46" x 46"	Sweet Street Inc. - Reading, PA
2007	Urban Sentinels (6)	68" x 8"	private residence, Chicago, IL
2007	Urban Sentinels (3)	32" x 8"	private residence, Chicago, IL
2007	Nine Birds	32" x 32"	private residence - Missouri
2006	Alice	96" x 60"	Chicago Public Library, Austin-Irving Branch
2006	Letterfied	96" x 60"	Chicago Public Library, Austin-Irving Branch
2005	Wordscapes	38" x 8"	Deloitte headquarters, Chicago, IL
2005	Cityscapes	28" x 28"	Deloitte headquarters, Chicago, IL
2005	Birdhouse	63" x 52"	private residence – Springfield, Missouri
2005	Utility Poles	48" x 32"	private residence -Denver, CO
2004	Sweet Dreams	41" x 19"	private residence - Chicago, IL
2004	Nature II	52" x 19"	private residence - New Jersey
2004	Slips	20" x 20"	private residence, Reading, PA
2004	Crops	68" x 8"	private residence, Reading, PA
2004	Deviled	68" x 8"	private residence, Reading, PA
2004	Mamasita ( <i>sculpture</i> )	23"h x 18" x 16"	Private residence, Chicago, IL
2004	Juice	52" x 19"	Sweet Street Inc. - Reading, PA
2004	Pulps	42" x 32"	Sweet Street Inc. - Reading, PA
2004	Nature	52" x 19"	Sweet Street Inc. - Reading, PA
2004	Why Not?	52" x 42"	Sweet Street Inc. - Reading, PA
2004	Contest	32" x 42"	Sweet Street Inc. - Reading, PA
2004	Falling II	52" x 41"	private residence, Pennsylvania
2004	Universal Radiation ( <i>drawing</i> )	28" x 20"	private residence, Madison, WI
2004	Songs of Grass( <i>painting</i> )	30" x 22"	private residence, Madison, WI
2004	Celestial	52" x 41"	private residence - Pennsylvania
2003	Whale & Sea	48" x 32"	Shriner's Hospital - Oak Park, IL
2003	Cinema ( <i>sculpture</i> )	15" x 15" x 10"	private residence, Chicago IL
2002	Metropolis	178" x 38"	Sweet Street Inc. - Reading, PA
2002	Smoke Signals ( <i>painting</i> )	30" x 22"	private residence, Rowlett, Texas
2000	New York Drink	28" x 28"	Raddison Hotel - Lexington, NY
2000	Movable Mural	44" x 29"	private residence - Reading, PA
1999	Autumn Mural	80" x 53"	Lisle Hilton - Lisle, IL
1998	Leaf Bathroom	108" x 96"	private residence - Reading, PA
1998	Gear Mural	32" x 29"	private residence - Chicago, IL
1997	Anniversary	71" x 53"	Sweet Street Inc. - Reading, PA
1996	Florida Mural	104" x 88"	private residence - West Palm Beach, FL

**Awards and Professional Recognition**

2017	IL Medical District CTA Train Stop	Awarded \$100,000 budget	Chicago Transit Authority
2013	Parkland College Art Search	One of Four Finalists	Illinois Art In Architecture Program
2010	Illinois Arts Council Support Grant	\$2,000 project grant	IL Arts Council
2009	4Culture.org Artist Registry	Premier Public Arts Registry	4Culture.org
2008	Belmont Station CTA Art Search	One of Five Finalists	Public Art Dept. Chicago
2008	Howard Station CTA Art Search	One of Eight Finalists	Public Art Dept. Chicago
2006	Austin-Irving Branch Library Art Search	\$15,000 commission	Public Art Dept. Chicago
2005	Friends of the Arts Awards Ceremony	Service to the Community Award	FOTA
2004	15th National Ceramic Competition	Juried Finalist	San Angelo Museum Fine Arts, TX
2001	IL State Fair Prof. Art Exhibition	1st Place	Ann Day
2001	Cooperstown Art Assoc. Prof. Art Exhibition	Award of Merit	Slyvia Swaan
2000	IL State Fair Prof. Art Exhibition	1st Place	Greg Knight
1995	Chicago Dept. of Cultural Affairs	CAAP Grant recipient	CAAP committee
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**Curatorial Work**

2016	9/1-12/22	Crazy 8 Artists' Carnival	Curator	State Street Gallery, Robert Morris U., Chicago, IL
2011-2017		Guest Artists @ Cornelia Arts Bldg.	Juror	Cornelia Arts Building, Chicago, IL
2015	9/1-12/22	Sight, Sounds, Sensations of the City	Co-Curator	State Street Gallery, Robert Morris U., Chicago, IL
2008	11/4-17	Attainable Art	Co-Curator	Peter Jones Gallery, Chicago, IL
2007	11/3-12/2	CRAZY 8	Co-Curator	Peter Jones Gallery, Chicago, IL
2005	10/28	Art Salon	Curator	Cornelia Arts Building Chicago, IL
2005	3/4	Instant Art - Columbia College	Juror	Schopf Gallery, Chicago
2005	3/19-20	2nd Annual Art for Charity Days	Director	Cornelia Arts Building, Chicago, IL
2004	10/3-31	Frayed Knot	Curator	Soul Cafe, Chicago, IL
2004	9/1-30	Women Equals Strength	Curator	Soul Cafe, Chicago, IL
2004	8/1-30	Dog Days	Curator	Soul Cafe, Chicago, IL
2004	6/1-30	Men on Men	Curator	Soul Cafe, Chicago, IL
2004	5/1-30	Beauty in Three	Curator	Soul Cafe, Chicago, IL
2004	4/17- 18	Art for Charity Days	Director	Cornelia Arts Building, Chicago, IL
2003	0/18-26	ARTival	Co-Director	Peter Jones Gallery, Chicago, IL

**Artist Lectures Given**

"Finding the Color Green", Artist Symposium, Chicago, IL	Feb, 2009
National-Louis University, Chicago, IL	July, 2008
Cornelia Arts Building, Chicago, IL	April, 2008
Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL	Feb, 2008
Chicago Public Library, Austin-Irving Branch, Chicago, IL	April, 2007
National-Louis University, Chicago, IL	April, 2007
Cliff Dwellers, Chicago, IL	May, 2005
Freedman Gallery, Albright College, Reading PA	Oct., 2004
University of Illinois, Chicago, IL	Nov., 2000

**Benefit Shows**

2014	1/23	Absolut Wraapture for Chicago House	Willis Tower Sky Deck, Chicago, IL
2013	10/2	ArtWorksADL for Anti-Defamation League	River East Art Center, Chicago, IL
2013	6/20	Birdhouse Auction for Chicago House	Room and Board, Chicago IL
2013	1/24	Absolut Wraapture for Chicago House	Willis Tower Sky Deck, Chicago, IL
2012	6/21	Birdhouse Auction for Chicago House	Room and Board, Chicago IL
2012	1/26	Champagne Wraapture for Chicago House	Willis (Sears) Tower Sky Deck, Chicago IL
2011	6/23	Birdhouse Auction for Chicago House	Room and Board, Chicago IL
2010	2/19	Art for Human Rights/Heartland Alliance	River East Art Center, Chicago, IL
2009	9/22	ARTRousal	Galleria Unica, Chicago, IL
2009	6/17	Chicago House Presents Bird House	Galleria Marchetti, Chicago IL
2009	2/12	Art Against AIDS/Heartland Alliance	River East Art Center, Chicago, IL
2008	6/19	Home Tweet Home, for Chicago House	Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago IL
2007	6/28	There's No Place Like Home, for Chicago House	Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago IL
2007	2/15	Art Against AIDS / Heartland Alliance	The James Hotel, Chicago, IL
2006	6/22	Birdhouse Auction, for Chicago House	Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago IL
2006	2/17	Art Against AIDS / Heartland Alliance	Kinetic Playground, Chicago, IL
2005	9/16	Déjà Vu / Fredman Gallery Benefit	Freedman Gallery, Reading, PA
2005	8/20	Lookinglass Theater's Madhatter's Ball	Resolution Studios, Chicago, IL
2005	6/23	Birdhouse Auction, for Chicago House	Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago IL
2005	4/9	Human First Gala / Center on Halsted	Sheraton Hotel, Chicago IL
2005	3/19-20	2nd Art for Charity Days (director)	Cornelia Arts Building, Chicago, IL
2005	2/17	Art Against AIDS / Heartland Alliance	Intercontinental Hotel, Chicago, IL
2004	5/1	Visions of Chocolate- CAWC benefit	Chicago Marriott, Chicago, IL
2004	4/17-18	Art for Charity Days (director of event)	Cornelia Arts Building, Chicago, IL
2004	2/14	Art Against AIDS / Heartland Alliance	Adler Planetarium, Chicago, IL
2003	6/19	litARTure: A Benefit for the Guild Complex	Mars Gallery, Chicago, IL
2002	4/21 - 5/18	Evanston Art Center Spring Benefit	Evanston Art Center, Evanston IL
2001	11/2	Art Against AIDS Auction	The Drake Hotel, Chicago, IL
2001	10/27	Damien Center Grande Masquerade	Damien Center, Indianapolis, IN
2001	8/24-25	The Fun Show	Sotheby's, Chicago, IL
2001	6/16	DIFFA: Design Industry Foundation Fighting Aids	Navy Pier, Chicago, IL
2001	3/24	HumanFirst Benefit Gala	Hyatt Regency, Chicago, IL
2000	11/3	Art Against AIDS Auction	The Drake Hotel, Chicago, IL
1998	10/30	Art Against AIDS Auction	Westin River North, Chicago, IL
1998	9/15	The Fun Show	Uncle Fun, Chicago, IL

**Bibliography - Art Publications & Art in Publications:**

<a href="#">Star Charts</a> , Jason Messenger	2011
<a href="#">The Insect Diviner</a> (cover art) Jason Messenger	2011
<a href="#">Story Telling</a> , (cover art) Jason Messenger	2011
<a href="#">Eating the Child Within</a> , (cover art) Jason Messenger	2010
<a href="#">Maui Love Letters</a> , Jason Messenger	2009
"Off The Rocks, #13", New Town Writers	2008
"Off the Rocks, #12", New Town Writers	2007
"Off the Rocks, #9" New Town Writers	2004

**Bibliography - Art Press:**

<b>"Jason Messenger's [sculpture] harkens to the Italian Futurists such as Umberto Boccioni, melding both abstraction in form and a lively sense of movement." - Chicago art critic G. Jurek Polanski, 2001</b>	
"Typoramics – Typographic Expressions in Ceramic Art" – <a href="#">Art Catalog</a> , Flora Cruells Benzal	May, 2015
"Jason Messenger - toying with symbols and perception" – <a href="#">Reading Eagle</a> , Ron Schira	April 4, 2010
"Colorful tiles, sculpture featured at GoggleWorks" – <a href="#">BCTV.org</a>	March 4, 2010
"Fine Art Crucial in Cultivating Cultural Growth of Teens" - <a href="#">Prep News.org</a>	April, 2009
"Made In Illinois", Robert Morris Gallery - <a href="#">show catalog</a>	2008/2009
"People of the Mud 2", Amber Ginsberg, <a href="#">CriticalCermics.org</a>	June, 2008
"The Chicago Public Art Guide" – Dept of Cult. Affairs, Chicago	June, 2007
"Art and Soul" - <a href="#">Windy City Times</a>	Feb 20, 2007
"Crazy 8" - <a href="#">Nightspots</a>	Oct 31, 2007
"Birdhouse Auction", - <a href="#">Windy City Times</a> ,	July 4, 2007
"ART Against AIDS 2006" - <a href="#">Heartland News</a> ,	Spring, 2006
"15th San Angelo Natl Ceramic" San Angelo Museum Fine Arts — <a href="#">show catalog</a>	April 2004
"Jason Messenger: It's a Wild Thing", <a href="#">Christopher Young</a> , <a href="#">Freedman Gallery</a>	Oct, 2004
"Chicago Art Open 2001", <a href="#">Critic G. Jurek Polanski</a> , <a href="#">Artscope.net</a>	Oct, 2001
"No, it's not a puzzle—it's art", <a href="#">Mike Watson</a> , <a href="#">UIC Today</a>	Nov 30, 2000
"Flux / Flow", <a href="#">Mike Watson</a> , <a href="#">UIC Today</a>	Nov. 20, 2000
"Glacial" <a href="#">Roscoe Village Neighbor</a>	April/May, 1999
"Sculpture 'emerges' at Roscoe Village gallery", <a href="#">INSIDE</a>	April 7, 1999
"Smooth Sculptures", <a href="#">Today's Chicago Woman</a> ,	April, 1999
"Art Against AIDS" <a href="#">SKYline</a>	Jan. 21, 1999
"Apocalypse Now and Then", Louise Lincoln, <a href="#">Apocalypse Show</a> – <a href="#">show catalog</a>	Jan. 1998

**Jason Messenger: It's A Wild Thing - solo show catalog excerpt**

"Wassily Kandinsky is commonly considered to be the first artist to create purely abstract work. This is, of course, a Western notion, ignoring the abstract patterns traditionally found in carpets, tiles and architectural embellishments of religious works in the Islamic world. Dating back to the seventh century, in the Muslim world, the concept of representation, of attempting to reproduce an image of the natural world was tantamount to heresy, a mocking of God, who was considered to be the only true maker of life or lifelike forms. Fundamentally, this absence of recognizable imagery relates to the Qur'an's condemnation of idols or idolatry. The written word, calligraphy, played an important role in their religious art, combining literary and visual information. Jason Messenger's 'Metropolis' echoes many of these precepts of abstraction. There is a hint, a suggestion, of text running through a contradictory narrative, at once beautifully simple and puzzlingly complex. In reference to his work, Messenger speaks of abstraction on the edge of representation, a fuzzy borderline. On one level, reading this large work is akin to attempting to decipher ancient and mysterious hieroglyphs, symbols of meaning. But this route of understanding is eventually debased, as the images are actually undefined, not based in any known language. Instead, the work creates its own language, an enigmatic structure of non-linear thought. The non-linear aspect of the tile works is emphasized by the fact that they may be arranged and rearranged in a multitude of variations, the modular nature of the work allows it to be horizontal or vertical, re-ordering the sequence of the individual pieces. In the Western world, we are accustomed to reading from left to right, and this cultural constraint pervades the ordered manner in which we view art. In a large horizontal work, we look from left to right. Essentially, Messenger turns this tradition around in a circular fashion, forcing a new way of reading. Although the tile works are based on a grid pattern, paradoxically, rather than following a rigid linear sequence, the eye tends to dance around the composition. Instead of a still pattern of regimentation, there is a choreography of creation on the part of the viewer. This liberation of interpretation, the freedom of the viewer to rearrange the order of objects in the mind's eye, or even to actually physically alter the installation order is paramount to understanding Messenger's method, his desire, to include the viewer in the creative process of his work. Kandinsky often based his work on music, frequently naming his paintings after musical movements. This notion of movement runs throughout Messenger's work. His sculptures, such as 'Fame', reflect the dynamism of Italian Futurism, such as Boccioni's 'Continuity of a Figure in Space', the attempted depiction of movement encapsulated in a still figure. This combination of elements, of a physical static figure embodying an emotional suggestion of kinetics, itself creates a dynamic tension. These sculptures are not self-contained. It is as if there is a body, an energy, expressively trying to get out. Rodin's famous sculpture of Balzac embodies just such a dynamic energy, the strength of Balzac's character being barely contained in his cloaked enclosure. Yet, both Boccioni and Rodin are using figurative references to the human body. Somehow Messenger manages to portray this energy, this vibrant motion without any allusions to natural form. Again, in these sculptures, Jason Messenger has invented a language that magically provokes our reading of the work. These works suggest the form of a cat in a bag; yet, the artist never lets the cat out of the bag, leaving us somewhat mystified. Conceptually, this confusion leads to a creative act on the part of the viewer. In our bemusement we are led to continually rethinking the inner nature of the work. The notion of sculpture forming a duality between the container and the thing contained is manifested. The idea of motion is also embodied in the way that the three-dimensional works demand us to traverse through time, circling each piece in an attempt to gather a visual capsule of the whole. The multiple views of Thunder reproduced in this brochure present but a few angles of view, but still present the radical ever-changing personality of a single work. Rather than being self-contained, Thunder is a chimera, changing and shifting dramatically, it evades any attempt to have a singular memory of its being. The very evasiveness of this work, echoing our inability to capture it in a simple cage in our mind, is the core of its beauty. It's a wild thing."

- **Christopher Youngs, Director of Freedman Gallery at Albright College, 2004**

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