

SPECTRUM

21



THE BEST IN
CONTEMPORARY
FANTASTIC ART

EDITED BY
JOHN FLESKES



Photo by Greg Preston for Spectrum Fantastic Art

DIMENSIONAL SILVER AWARD

COLIN & KRISTINE POOLE

HOT DIGGETY DOG

Medium: Fired ceramic
Size: 28 x 21 x 21 in.

"What started as a tango has turned into a lifelong creative adventure."

—During the Poole's acceptance speech at the Spectrum 21 Awards Ceremony

Upon first encountering the collaborative anthropomorphic creations of Colin and Kristine Poole, one almost believes they've stepped into a reality where such creatures might actually exist. Each of their life-sized ceramic sculptures is based on a particular world myth and also tells its own story through the viewer's imagination. Colin's enduring fascination with mythology began in early childhood, having been introduced to the Greek mythological pantheon while working in the studio of his mentor, Christosomos Chakos, a master of Greek icon painting at the time. Colin shared his love of myth with Kristine, and together they have broadened their influences to include mythological stories from cultures around the globe. Their retelling of world myths inspires viewers to revisit the wonder of storytelling and emphasizes the unity of our cultural roots—how, since ancient times, people have told stories of creatures combining human and animal attributes, with magical results.

Regarding their working methodology, Colin says, "It really is a complete collaboration from the beginning. There isn't any part that we don't both have our hands in, literally and figuratively." Kristine adds, "We both bring specialized backgrounds to the table. My extensive background in ceramic sculpture and anatomical study is the perfect complement to Colin's twenty-five years of experience as a professional painter and sculptor. His work has been exhibited in museums and galleries throughout the United States and Europe, and his corporate client list reads as a "who's who" of *Fortune 500* companies."

Colin and Kristine both moved to Santa Fe at the same time twenty years ago, but their paths did not cross until 2008, when he asked her to dance a tango. They were married in Greece the following summer and began combining their artistic talents the same year.