



REPRESENTING COMMUNITY EDUCATION GUIDE

About Roberto Lugo

Roberto Lugo is a Philadelphia-based artist, ceramicist, social activist, poet, and educator. Lugo utilizes classical pottery forms in conjunction with portraiture and surface design. The pieces informed his North Philadelphia upbringing and hip-hop culture, highlighting themes of poverty, inequality, and racial injustice. Lugo's works utilize traditional European and Asian ceramic techniques reimagined with a 21st-century street sensibility. Their hand-painted surfaces feature traditional decorative patterns and motifs combined with elements of modern urban graffiti and portraits of individuals whose faces are historically absent on this type of luxury item — people like Sojourner Truth, Dr. Cornel West, and the Notorious BIG, as well as Lugo's family members and, very often, himself.