David Kiddie Biography

David Kiddie is an artist based in Orange, California, and serves as Associate Professor of Art at Chapman University, where he has led the ceramics and sculpture program for more than four decades. He earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from Claremont Graduate University in 1985.

Kiddie's work is represented in numerous public and private collections, including the American Museum of Ceramic Art, First California Bank, the W. Keith and Janet Kellogg Ceramics Collection at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, the Escalette Art Collection at Chapman University, among others.

His artwork has been exhibited extensively throughout California at institutions and venues including the American Museum of Ceramic Art, Laguna Art Museum, Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation, Orange County Museum of Art, Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion, Napa Hall Gallery at California State University Channel Islands, Cal Poly Pomona, University of La Verne, Coastline College, Western Project, and the Los Angeles Arboretum.

Kiddie maintains a dynamic interdisciplinary practice spanning abstract and figurative sculpture, pottery, and painting. His recent ceramic sculptures draw inspiration from the microscopic structures and processes that underpin biological life, translating complex organic forms into compelling sculptural compositions.

His current research explores the possibility of creating ceramic vessels on Mars, bringing together art, science, and speculative futures. By imagining the ceramic vessels and cultural traditions that might accompany life on Mars, Kiddie considers humanity's enduring drive to explore new horizons, while acknowledging the environmental, social, and existential challenges we carry with as Earthlings.

Exhibition Text (226 words)

For more than four decades, David Kiddie has created a world of ceramic sculptures that spills from his studio into his garage and garden. Presented here as *Wild Thing*s, these sculptures offer a glimpse into Kiddie's imaginative world. Together, they reflect an abundance of forms, a restless curiosity, and a lifetime devoted to making. Based in Orange, California, Kiddie has taught generations of art students at Chapman University and remains an active force in the ceramics community, not only as an educator but also as a musician.

Music provides a useful lens for understanding Kiddie's practice. A pianist, he approaches clay much like a jazz musician approaches improvisation, responding to discoveries as they emerge rather than following a fixed plan. By embracing uncertainty, he allows chance, material, and process to shape the outcome. As his one of his mentors once asked, "*If I know what it's going to look like, why make it?*"

Playful and experimental, these sculptures embrace both repetition and surprise. Glazes run, pool, and crust in unexpected ways, revealing the interplay between intention and chance. Inspired by forms found in nature and the imagination, Kiddie's fantastical creations celebrate discovery, wonder, and the joy of play. Titled *Wild Things* after Maurice Sendak's children book *Where the Wild Things Are*, the artist evokes Max's boundless imagination and invites us to see the world with fresh curiosity.