

By Mark Jenkins

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6x6 Ceramic Tile

All 70 pieces in “6x6 Ceramic Tile Exhibition” fit within a six-by-six-inch space, but most of the artists think outside the square. Some of the exquisitely crafted, if untraditional, ceramic tiles at the IDB Staff Association Art Gallery aren’t rectangular, and others are nearly as deep as they are wide and high.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-eleven-artists

The selection features entries from 24 Interamerican Development Bank member countries, including Argentina (Catalina Galdon’s two-tone square split by a flowering vine) and Venezuela (Isabel Cisneros’s toylike, unsquared construction). Common motifs include miniature animals that protrude from the surface, such as Lucrecia Palza’s monkeys (Bolivia), Fernando Hinostroza’s pumas (Chile) and Elena Somonte’s fish (Mexico).

Among the most emphatically three-dimensional pieces are a mass of budlike green protrusions by Julie Tesser (United States) and a diorama inside a perforated brick by Joshua Lue Chee Kong (Trinidad and Tobago). Guyana’s Nicholas Young defies expectations just as surely with the incised lines of what initially appears to be a pre-Columbian design. The title, “Industrialization,” prompts a second look, revealing that the red-on-black forms are as mechanical as organic. The ceramic could come from an ancient tomb, yet it portrays a modern factory.

6x6 Ceramic Tile Exhibition Through Oct. 18 at [IDB Staff Association Art Gallery](#), 1300 New York Ave. NW (13th Street entrance).