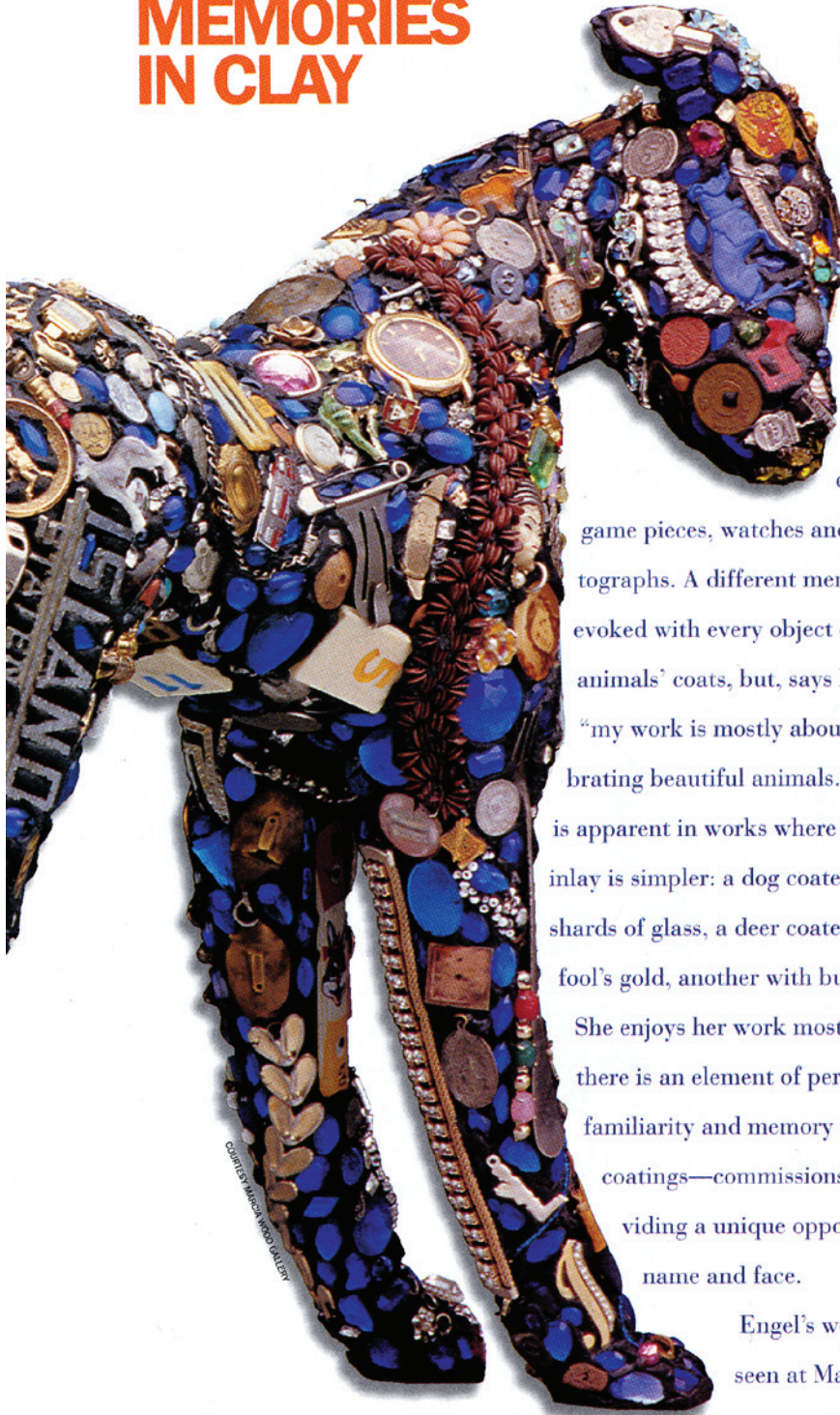


## SHORTTAKES

### MEMORIES IN CLAY



“Embedding objects into clay is not new,” says Athens-based sculptor and potter **Mary Engel**. Years ago Engel discovered African-American grave-site “memory jars” and this, combined with her intense love of animals, led to a new art medium. Engel crafts clay dogs and deer, then inlays them with keepsakes (once cherished, sometimes worthless, often of unknown origin) such as jewelry,

game pieces, watches and photographs. A different memory is evoked with every object on the animals’ coats, but, says Engel, “my work is mostly about celebrating beautiful animals.” This is apparent in works where the inlay is simpler: a dog coated with shards of glass, a deer coated with fool’s gold, another with bullets. She enjoys her work most when there is an element of personal familiarity and memory with the coatings—commissions providing a unique opportunity for learning the stories behind every name and face.

Engel’s work ranges from \$900 to \$3,500 and can be seen at Marcia Wood Gallery, (404) 885-1808.

—Anna Brutzman

