

# Manny Vazquez

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*Coffee Shop Notes*

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View the artwork this article discusses at

<http://www.thetactilemind.com/TTMWeekly/manny.html>

A love for the natural shows up in Manny Vazquez's sculptural form. The swelling contours of his miniature figure work reflect upon the fleshy and earthly quality of the human body, which is the object of his focus.

Manny sculpts these 5-inch figures with his bare hands. He uses the balls of his fingers to manipulate the clay into smooth shapes, and employs a minimum of cut-away techniques to create defining features such as the belly button and the eyes. There is an abundance of expression within his deceptively simple work--the large proportion of the head to the body and offset posture create a child-like quality.

While the arms are absent, the stomach is engorged and its fat bugles around the middle, echoing the slouch of the figure's bell-bottom pants. The hair is real. Manny succeeds in infusing ceramic form with organic life.

MANNY VAZQUEZ is an artist and a fashion maven when he is not working or at the fore edge of action in Washington DC's Deaf and Gay communities, such as emceeding in Drag at Rock Festival 2002, participating in pageants, or giving workshops on safe sex to college students, as well as leading the weekend's club entourage with his splendid plumage.

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