

Adam Gruetzmacher

Undergraduate Student, Fine Arts

My work in ceramics is an examination of the understanding of what makes a pot fundamentally viable as a means of communication. As a craftsman I find myself contented through the creation of the functional object, and as a visual artist I strive to activate my work with a vitality that is visual as well as tactile. Through my own interaction with other artist's work I have found that pottery personifies an ongoing dialogue between maker and user. The way in which a pot is used is central to its significance. With this understanding I make forms that speak about process and utility, without being overly strident. I am interested in the exploration of profile and volume, derivative of the human figure and inspired by the structure of the skeleton. I reference this idea of underlying, soft structure juxtaposed with hard architecture in my work.

Design is important to me. Both two and three-dimensionally the work I make needs to be visually appealing as well as functional. On a two-dimensional level this means that decoration should make sense both within the form as well as with its surroundings; one object needs to talk about and inform others and vice versa. I utilize texture to give the user an awareness of surface and proportion. Three-dimensional forms create shadow and line and in this way contribute to the surface of the object. Negative space is a crucial formal element as it becomes as important as the actual object. The space around my forms acts to lift and give life to curves, or further emphasizes the grounded disposition of mass. The objects I create are informed by necessity and are rooted in history and tradition; these are things that people use. This realization is one of guidance and of community as I discover myself within a discipline as well as a distinctive period of time. I am inspired and animated by the hand made, and find myself fascinated by an aesthetic drawn from experience.

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“Stacker Jar” 2009 Cone 2 earthenware, glazes. Electric fired. 11.5/5/5in.

“Three Tumblers” 2009 Cone 2 earthenware, glazes. Electric fired. Largest is 5.5/3/3 in.

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“Three Tumblers” 2009
Cone 2 earthenware, glazes. Electric fired. Largest is
5.5/3/3 in.



”Three Pouring Vessels” 2008
Cone 10 porcelain. Soda fired with shino glazes.
Largest is 5.5/4/4 in.



"Ash Vase" 2008
Cone 10 stoneware and fake ash glaze. 14/7/7 in.



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