

Jonathan Kaplan "Why I make What I Make"

1/24/2022

I make a variety of ceramic objects that celebrate both form and surface. I am not bound by any constraint in method or material, nor am I limited by any strict adherence to utility. I use many ways to create work, having a deep vocabulary of tool and technique that is not framed by preconception or historical imperative.

Major influences upon my work are architecture and geometry. The majority of my ceramics can be viewed as vessel centric and all deal with ideas that relate to containment. Strict utility or function may only be a reference derived from an association with a specific shape or form. As a skilled mold-maker, I design and fabricate all my own models and molds. Sometimes I use found objects as source material. My work is slip-cast using a cone 6 whiteware casting body that I make.

I have made a diverse body of work throughout my career, driven to make objects that are both highly designed and impeccably crafted. I look in awe at the symmetries of culture and am humbled by what remains as historical evidence in clay. With an acknowledgement of that deep history of ceramics, I endeavor to make choices in my work that will continue to engage and interest me, and hopefully others. I am honored to be a part of this continuum and constantly reinvent my work by challenging myself. My studio practice has evolved over many years and it is important to always include others with me on this journey.