

Louis Reilly

The potential for progress draws me into the studio. My work is in a constant state of evolution. Taking the best form of many and repeating it keeps the work moving forward. Useful pots that appear soft and proud, direct and honest best grip my interest.

The work of unknown potters provide me with a set of forms to be inspired by. I distill this catalog of inspirations into a new form that is grounded in history, functions well in the contemporary home, and contributes to the history of ceramic vessel making.

Soda firing invigorates form with variations of hue, sheen, and texture. Purposeful kiln loading establishes channels for flame to lick the surface of the pots with bands of red, yellow, and orange. The pots are fired without exterior applied slips or glazes. The clay bodies interact with the soda to form a dramatic glazed surface. Glaze builds up in areas and flashing takes over in others.

I am endlessly fascinated by the physical sensation of working with clay. The surprise of creating a form with a silhouette that pulses with energy never diminishes. These pots serve as a journal of my inspirations and influences.