

Kyla Culbertson

The process of hand-building with clay gives volume and mass to my thoughts and is an integral part of my creative practice. The imprints left on the surface are the indelible record of this method. I am ultimately concerned with the exploration of humanistic ideas about existence, agency, relationships, memory, and mortality. Earthenware is weak and porous, yet strong and tensile as a material. When the iron rich clay reaches a high temperature, it begins to warp and the carefully placed lines and shapes begin to move, often altering the original structure with dynamic and precarious results. This process magnifies the places of collision and the idea of absence. Once it is fired, whether in shards or as a complete object, clay will never cease to be stone in its permanence. This constant, never-ending state of evolving illustrates that everything is less than perfect mirroring the quality of memories.