

Artist Statement

Chris Singewald

I create functional vessels with active surfaces that are achieved through layering clay, glazes, and over-glazes. Through atmospheric firing processes, these materials mature and bond with the vessels to bring depth and balance. Edges are highlighted, form is enhanced, microcrystals grow, and materials blend. It is through layers of surface that complement the form that I encourage touch, interaction, and use of my wares.

My pottery surface influences come from objects that remain through seasons and weathering. These objects can be man-made or natural: brick buildings that reveal layers of painted advertisements from the middle of the century, ridges of land and stone that meet the ocean day-after-day, or a barn placed on the horizon along the highway. The physical surfaces change and record each season, as years blend into decades, the colors, forms, and edges erode but remain. My mind is lured into these surfaces and I look closer to find what other details an object will reveal. I strive for my wares to entice the user towards contemplation and curiosity.

My forms begin with ideas of volume and structure. I envision my pots to be standing tall, ready to be admired, filled, and used. Often, I will add marks to my pieces that push the forms in and soften a curve while maintaining the structure of the piece. This invites gesture to the form and will encourage atmospheric highlights from a wood, soda, or salt glaze firing.

I create objects because of connections within the process. I seek out my own answers to form and surface through explorations in materials and firings that forge a path of expression, accomplishment, and understanding. I join other artists as they seek answers and reference wares from historic potters whose objects remain. My connection with clay comes full circle when I interact, educate, and inform a customer who then finds inherent value in my wares.