

Anne Rasmussen – Artist Statement

When I make my ceramic forms I think about many things: functionality, form, texture (both visual and physical) and aesthetics. I was drawn to Asian landscape art long before my college work in Asian history. I see its conversation with nature as organic as one I would have with a great friend and I seek to communicate this natural conversation through ceramics. My work reflects this dialogue in the ink work I apply to many of my pieces. The simplicity of a single line that creates something as complex as a bird's wing or the powerful rush of a waterfall is what keeps me engaged in the ink work. As with the clay itself, there's always something new to try, a new technique to learn especially as I explore the wonders and difficulties of porcelain.

I enjoy the challenge in making something common in everyday life and taking it in another direction while retaining its functional purpose. Functionality creates restraints in that it is sometimes defined as an item created in a certain way for a specific purpose. I don't find functionality as being restrictive anymore but just the opposite. It is exciting to explore how else can I physically and intellectually stretch a basic form while retaining its functional nature. I love that a coffee cup is capable of being as artful as any painting.

Many years prior to his passing, I saw the noted actor and art collector Vincent Price in an interview in which he was asked to give an opinion on how people choose the art they purchase. He paused for a moment and answered saying that he believes that we buy what we wish we could make. As I amassed various collections of things over the years, I realized that this statement held a truth for me. This also tells me that for those who choose to do so, creating art is a valuable resource, both internal and external.