

Saba Stovall

Sculpture called to me immediately. With the right tools and enough materials, I could take an intangible concept and give it life so that it spread my thoughts to others without my intervention. My art spoke, and I continued to create. When I entered into ceramics, I was fascinated with the medium - how a plastic material could be formed and fired to create permanent works, how a calculated mixture of powders could be liquefied and turned into beautiful, detailed surfaces without touching a single paintbrush, how enduring the material was to survive the kiln. My pieces hinged on the ideas of materiality and creation, yet through my experimentation, my goals drifted away from creating finished, final sculptures and focused on these explorations of medium.

I find moments of interest within the act of artistic creation and document those small accomplishments of beauty within a whole. These moments are often tiny portions of a larger piece, relatively unnoticeable in the real, but when photographed, these points of interest can be presented as abstractions. In the images, hollow hulls of fired slip become caverns, bright flashes of glaze turn into pools of water, sharp porcelain brings reminders of bone picked clean. The abstraction acts as an ink blot; each viewer establishes a new relationship with the piece.

From this, an object that is familiar in the real is transformed into an intangible abstraction. This intention is reflected in the process. I choose not to use traditional techniques of sculpture or ceramics when creating my work and instead allow experimentation to dictate the abstraction. I feel that

the materials decide their own arrangement during the workflow, and my hand is subtle if not absent in the final documentation.

The isolated moments within the act of creation hold my interest, not the work as a whole. I often destroy the 'finished' work in the name of using the parts to create something new. I feel that the fleeting moments in the process are what pushes creation forward - the performance of the song, the solos, the repeated melodies are what gives the art value, not the silence of the ending.