Abstract

My MAP furthered my exploration of ceramics, as a means of producing functional pieces that stand apart from ordinary, generic dinnerware sets. My goal was to bring a quality of artistic sophistication to a ritual we experience every day – consuming food off of hand-built yet functional works of art. My set includes five matching dinner plates, dessert plates, bowls, cups and mugs that were thrown using cone-10 clay. Additionally, I made two larger forms for serving food, a platter and a bowl. I believe this project produced works of art embodying craft and quality suitable to be displayed individually in a gallery. When all of the ceramic forms are brought together as a unified dinnerware set, it connects the artist’s spirit with a unique dining ritual.

The Studio

Throwing
- Average time to throw general cylinder form using 2 pounds clay = 10 minutes
- Extra time spent on a form including altering shape and drying time = 2 hours

Bisque Firing
- Total firing time = 11 hours
- Kiln is propped open 1 inch for the first 5 hours or until inside temperature reaches 1000°F to burn off impurities
- Fired to cone 08 or until 1728°F

Glazing
- Glaze chemistry: follow glaze recipe, measure chemicals using a gram scale, combine chemicals and dry mix, add water then sieve glaze – different chemicals produce different effects to the glaze, i.e. silica as glass maker, color, opacifier for matte vs. no opacifier for shine
- 30 glazes, hundreds of glaze combinations
- Different techniques – wax resist

Glaze Firing
- Total firing time = 20-26 hours
- First body reduction at 1650°F for 1 hour
- Second body reduction at 2050°F for 1 hour
- Glaze reduction at 2300°F or when cone 09 is bent for 1 hour unless cone 10 bends
- Kiln is taken out of reduction for 10 minutes before turning off
- Cool for 2 days before unloading

Final Set

Design/Inspiration
- Research
- Brainstorm and sketching ideas

Art 499
Mentored Advanced Project
with Professor Jill Schrift

Altering Clay: Enhancing Daily Rituals
Ashlen Matzdorf