

ARTIST'S STATEMENT and BIO info

I make process infused hollowware with an emphasis on form. The way my work activates the space surrounding it is more important to me than how it functions in the hand. Traditional vessel architecture is at the heart of my design but I really strive for my work to embody the essence of artifacts without just reproducing them. I want my work to induce subliminal relationships to historic influences. My hope is to make pieces that are able to communicate feelings and ideas without recalling specific objects. I intend for these compositions to be mysterious and open-ended enough to evoke multiple interpretations. Artist, material, form, surface and firing are all part of the collaboration in my process.

Ben Bates was born and raised in Southern California, earned his BFA at Kansas City Art Institute and his MFA at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. His work has been widely exhibited and is part of numerous museum, gallery and private collections. Ben has over 27 years of experience in the arts. He has been an artist, teacher and curator in the Chicago Land area since 1998. Ben lives in Libertyville and is currently a Studio Artist and Ceramics Instructor at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois.