

Barbara Frey

These constructed vessels utilize a formal vocabulary that derives from my enduring fascination with smooth, rounded stones from the shore of Lake Ontario. In a practical sense, these stones serve as press molds to create forms that are then stacked with thrown elements. In another sense, they are symbolic repositories for my attachment to the natural environment and the marvel of natural processes occurring over geologic time that have refined rock into these beautiful shapes. Flow is the connecting concept between these stones as source material and the atmospheric firings that activate the surface of the vessels. I find Leonardo da Vinci's drawings of water flowing around obstacles to be inspirational and poetically relevant to my consideration of this concept. I equate the flow of water over the rocks in the lake with the circulation of flame, vapor, and ash around the vessels during wood and soda firings.