

Nick Schroeder

I have an interest in doing work that is conceptual and that references other artists, art movements, and design. The pieces I'm submitting were inspired by a book devoted to Japanese aesthetics - "Japanese Design" by Patricia J. Graham. I became intrigued by one of the design concepts that she describes. The Japanese term is "Ma" which translates as "an interval in space and time." It refers to the presence of empty spaces, abstraction, and asymmetrical balance frequently found in Japanese design. These wall-hung tiles are part of my exploration of this concept. I am a ceramic artist, and the use of clay is important to me in the exploration of this concept. Clay is a universal medium and ceramics are particularly important in Japanese culture. The ability to do works that are three-dimensional is crucial to me.