

Sacred Vessels

These timeless vessels have been used throughout history in many civilizations in sacred or relational contexts. My vessels are fusional abstractions of pagodas, western utilitarian ceramics, and Christian temple motifs. The sacred vessels displayed are my interpretation of Song dynasty funerary jars, teapots, pitchers, stacking temples, and a range of jars and bottles. The pagoda temples have been my main inspiration and study in China after visiting different cultural areas in Jiangxi and Anhui Provinces. This architecture has provided me with a framework to connect Chinese sensibilities of design in various ways in my vessel and utilitarian work. This is further expressed through the architectural elements found in Chinese architecture's repetition and sectioning, angular roofs, overhangs, and vertical and horizontal designs.

Christian church design through the architecture, windows, and stain glass is also incorporated in the surface decoration of my work. The colors, patterns, shapes, textures, and brickwork allow me to create various visual elements and positional detail to my forms. At the center of this influence is my faith in Jesus Christ, which gives me further clarity and connection to fuel my creativity in clay. This direction allows me to dissect the parallels of my work to life, the way we live, what is important to life, and how culture manipulates His plan to be the opposite for man's desires.

Sacred can be defined as something devoted exclusively to one service or use as through a person or purpose. Vessels are usually a container for something or a quality that a person is infused with, like grace. Sacred Vessels could be defined as a container devoted exclusively to one purpose or use. Throughout history, these vessels presented have had this title in all relational levels in the lives of men. Whether for use, display, or discourse, their useful purpose was to contain a truth, beauty, and a character. These attributes are given to the vessels by the maker and passed on to the viewer/owner.

Throughout my spiritual journey, I have felt God calling me to be a sacred vessel, but I choose my own way most of the time. By my faith I am blessed that He always forgives and loves me more than I could ever know. This restoration allows me to do His will and not my own. Thankfully his strength is more powerful than mine.

Translating Sacred Vessels into the human being perspective is the definition that I am most concerned with and how it relates to our American culture. For we have been molded into vessels by our Father and given a choice and purpose in this life. Our cultural influences have blinded us into believing whatever is right for right now, is right. We have forgotten that we are beautiful vessels of God. His purpose for us is to love him and everyone around us, including those who do not love us. What would our families, cities, and country look like if we lived like this? Our culture tells us to love ourselves more and do what is right for ourselves over others.

We are not much different than the person next to us or the person on other side of the world. The difference is our hearts and our actions towards each other, which is consumed and controlled by our selfish desires. Actively making the change to turn toward God and not to our selfish hearts is the first step in this beautiful process.

I want the viewer to look at these pieces with a critical, but open heart to see what is at the core of their existence. Hopefully this understanding can be translated in to how we view and understand others. May these vessels speak into your spirit as a purposeful, life changing interaction to spring board you to the restoration of your heart.