

Finding the Authentic Self



Simon Levin
Illinois, USA

My work started to become mine about 19 years ago, when I moved to Wisconsin and spent months and months working alone in my new studio. All the voices of my past teachers, all the critical training, learned rules and deep influences quieted down. The input of grad school sifted down and my own voice began to emerge. Repeating cycles of making and firing started new conversations and I had to rely on myself to critique the work, and then follow through on making the next generation. As a wood fire potter, it has also taken many years to shed the mantle of Japanese pottery.

I have come to believe that style is a byproduct of interest, and if I pursue my own interest honestly, earnestly, fearlessly, the work will come through my own inherent filter and be authentically mine. After a firing I look at all the work, closely, slowly, viscerally. I am looking for not just a heady interest but an emotional pull, this is my trusted guide that I am on the right path.

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CuratedCeramics.com Minneapolis (612) 719-9632