

Public Abstract
Fergus P. Moore, ID #
Master's Thesis
Fine Art
Pottery: Art As Relationship
Advisor: Bede Clark

Advisor's signature

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I am a functional potter. I make functional pots. The objects I make are utilitarian. These three statements are obvious in their meaning but the significance is not necessarily so obvious. Function in the colloquial usage is superficial, having only to do with an object's use for a task; a functional object is a tool, and I am a toolmaker. However, I see function from a more anthropological perspective whereby function is extended to the greater meaning found in the relationships between people and objects.

The art of the object is apparent when we form a relationship with it. For this exhibit I made the cups and plates that were used at the reception. In addition, the food was served on my platters and in my serving bowls. I wanted to fill the gallery space with friends, food and pots.

I believe that pottery can and does enhance everyday life. The often-mundane acts of eating and drinking are raised in our awareness and made special through the use of handmade pots. This occurs when we form a relationship with a pot, which I believe happens in at least one of three ways: the pot as a tool, the pot as aesthetic object, and the pot as the object of emotional attachment.

The exhibition operated on all three levels. Participants at the reception were asked to choose a cup and a plate, drink and eat from them, and take them home. These pots were small and as such approached my conception of the ideal "tool" for a reception. Aesthetically they indicated an Asian influence of somber simplicity. And it is my hope that the pots, their lives extended spatially and temporally in participants' homes, will remind the participants of the reception, of the people gathered there, and of the goodness evident in the gathering.