

THE INDEX OF CRAFT;  
AN ESSAY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MFA THESIS  
EXHIBITION CONTRAST: CONTAINING CLARITY

Bill Wilkey

R. Bede Clarke, Thesis Supervisor

ABSTRACT

This thesis paper supports the Master of Fine Arts exhibition at the George Caleb Bingham Gallery, The University of Missouri-Columbia, from April 28<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. The exhibition, *Contrast: Containing Clarity*, is comprised of 95 unique ceramic pieces, which are presented as groupings on pedestals and wall mounted boxes.

The exhibition presents the artist's exploration of form and surface used to make pots within the concept of lasting permanence and connections to humanity. Making marks on pots as an index of self to share with others during an intimate utilitarian experience.

Topics discussed are the influences, concepts, techniques, and methods used to create functional pottery. Included are process images, detail images, source content, and images of selected works.