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Ceramics III
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Artist Statement

This semester, ceramics became an essential outlet in my creative practice, offering a tactile, intuitive, and refreshingly physical way to break through periods of artist block. While my senior exhibition was rooted in heavy conceptual inquiry, working in clay allowed me to reconnect with the immediate, tactile joy of making. It offered a balance: a space where the process itself felt therapeutic, and where form could emerge through instinct rather than overthinking.

My work in ceramics still echoes the broader themes I often explore, collection, nostalgia, and cultural symbolism, but appeared in a more playful form this semester. For the potluck piece, I created a large round baking dish modeled after a Danish butter cookie tin. Glazed in traditional Dutch colors and featuring a button-shaped lid, the dish merges utility and memory, speaking to my ongoing interest in domestic objects and inherited cultural imagery. The reference to buttons here connects directly to a recurring theme in my work: the emotional and historical weight of everyday objects.

This investigation continued more conceptually with my “Button Babies”, a set of four small, non-representational humanoid forms created as an article response. Each figure has a button-like head and an organic, hand-formed body, glazed in soft, earthy tones. These sculptures act as both a metaphor for identity and a meditation on the act of collecting: the instinct to hold on to small, odd, deeply personal artifacts. In a lighter vein, I also created a playful stamp collection featuring holiday symbols and imagery that resonate with me. These small, colorful, slightly kitschy pieces serve as a cheerful counterpart to my more subdued forms, while still contributing to my ongoing exploration of what it means to gather and preserve meaning through objects. Ultimately, working in ceramics allowed me to move fluidly between conceptual thought and physical expression. It has become not just a supplement to my practice, but a grounding force, an honest and joyful way to reconnect with the core reasons I create.