

# *Stearns Ceramics*

My work is created to strike a chord with the viewer, conveying a fragile and fleeting existence. The Raku process accentuates the intersecting fragility of life, passionate connections, and the pain of betrayal, using the matrix of the objects to allude to these concepts. Using an interest in mathematics, I create patterns and explore the relationships between those patterns and the effect of the color and texture of the glaze on those patterns to elicit emotional responses. Each piece created is an attempt at a reflection of who I am as a person and an artist; at the moment my hands touch the clay and continue through the glazing and firing processes. In this reflection, I hope that a viewer can find a connection to their own experiences on this life journey. In everyday life, we journey on different paths, following passions and making decisions that conflict with emotional responses. The web of paths interconnects and fit together to create patterns in our life, helping to lead us toward the following challenging path. The work I endeavor to make maps those choices, pinpointing and illuminating the fractures and fragility of the emotional bonds that can bring meaningful connection... bonds that can be strengthened or destroyed at any moment.

I graduated from Fort Hays State University in 2008 with a Masters of Fine Arts. I am currently a Professor at Doane University and the Chair of the Art and Design department,



Powered by dot.