

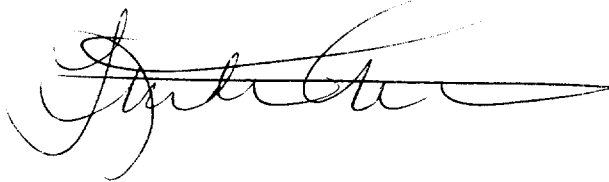
Free Association

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

Kirstin Kurtz

Thesis Advisor
Professor Linda Arndt

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Arndt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ball State University

Muncie, Indiana

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Free Association
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Abstract

This creative project is the resolution to two goals, one conceptual and one technical. Conceptually, the intent was to create a body of work that expresses imagery associated with beauty, grace and simplicity. The technical challenge involved developing forms and surfaces that are not only interesting and expressive themselves, but also are structurally sound when fired to the temperature range of cone 06 to 6.

Acknowledgements

It is important to me to express my thanks to the faculty and my classmates in the ceramics department. My advisor, Professor Linda Arndt and Professor Vance Bell create an environment that allows students to receive both personal attention and instruction and the opportunity to experiment individually. To my classmates I am grateful as well — for providing friendship, support, and the criticism and advice that helps us all grow and develop our individual voices.

Free Association

My intent in creating this body of work was to build interesting and graceful forms and to develop rich surfaces and textures. In addition, my goal was to create work that I felt expressed, in my own way, what is beautiful and important to me. Imagery associated with the human form and the movement of water as well as abstract concepts such as mood and posture were central sources of inspiration for me as I worked.

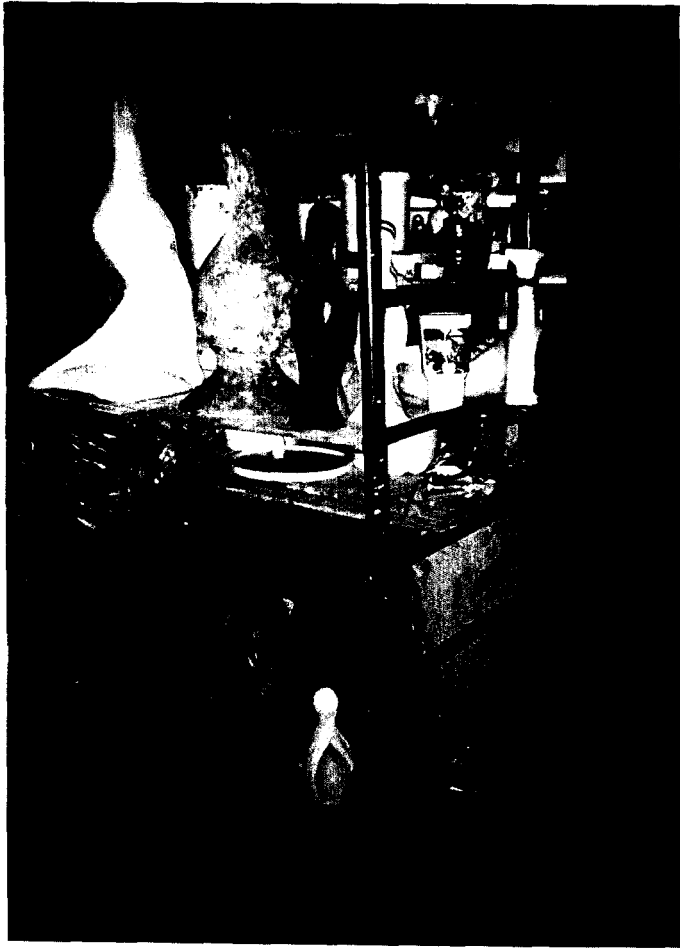
I was also inspired and encouraged by the works of Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Hans Coper and Lucie Rie which I experienced first hand in England in May of 1998. The works of Moore and Hepworth communicate to me simplicity, calmness, strength and integrity. It is attention to the surface treatment of a vessel that I appreciate in the works of Coper and Rie.

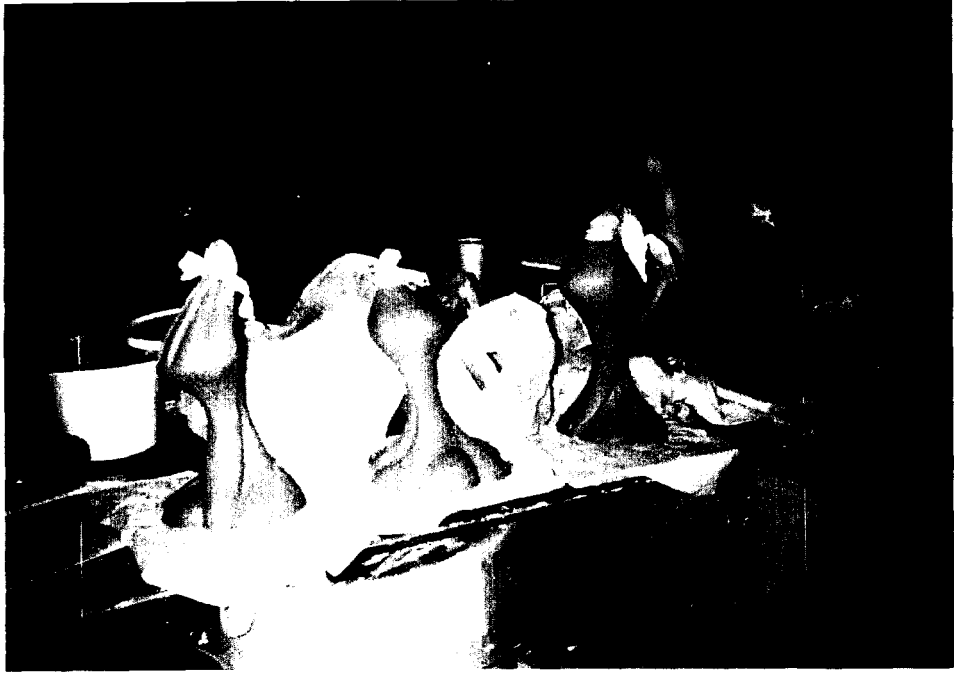
As I worked to develop forms and textures, the specific images I began with became less focused and I feel that I was able to increasingly work more intuitively with both form and texture. At this point I began making "free associations" with my world and my experiences. I reached a point where the work was somehow more mine than anyone else's. It was at this point that I began to find satisfaction with what I was making.

What I find particularly exciting about the work I have done is that each viewer can make his or her own association and can relate to my work to their own experiences. I feel that this exchange is one signal of successful artwork and I am pleased and proud that I have reached this point with my work.

Kirstin Kurtz

Works in Progress





Selected Works













