

Final project statement

For my final project I made a big cup that has the shape of a man's throat with traditional Chinese patterns on it.

The cup is mainly inspired by ancient Chinese cosmology. In one of the ancient classics, YiJing (The Book of Changes), it is mentioned that the sky is black and the earth is yellow, so I used black glaze on the rim and mottled brown at the bottom. Inside the cup I painted the sun and five mountains, representing the living world, and on the outside I painted more mountains with the Adam's apple that embodies Mount Kunlun, which is the Chinese version of a gate to heaven. All souls need to go on the long journey that gets over Kunlun and enter the black, free form of the heaven.

The reason I chose to shape the vessel as a human throat is because I think it best represents both the force and the fragility of a man. The point is not to objectify or sexualize a person of this culture, but to add humanity and a touch of sensualness into this world view.

This work is inspired by Steven Young Lee who combined traditional patterns with modern forms. I took on a more abstract expression to bring out the primitive crudeness that lies in the ancient belief, and was creative with the color of the glaze. For the inner part I mainly applied dusty blue, midnight blue and chartreuse gloss green, and for the outer part I used mottled brown, buckwheat, golden green as well as ripe apple red. On the sinews I used more vibrant cool colors such as violet, so that they could represent rivers that flow around Kunlun.

This cup can be used as a tea cup or fruit salad cup. Although it is huge and heavy, my mother happens to have a cup of similar size, for she is a heavy tea drinker. If not serving food and drinks, it can also be a nice pen pot.









