

## Erin Hupp Artist Statement

I strive to make unique, hand-thrown collections of ceramics. Starting with a ball of clay, my hands touch my art hundreds of times. After I make one of my pieces on my potter's wheel, I tend to it over the next two weeks by drying, trimming, sanding, bisque firing, wet sanding, glazing, firing again and oiling it.

My Midnight Campfire Collection began as a reflection of those times we find ourselves gathered around a campfire, staring at the glowing embers as the colors ebb and flow. I developed this collection at the end of 2019 but it really breathed life in 2020 when I was suddenly creating alone in my studio. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, most of my work was born out of a collaborative process with Michelin-starred chefs. My Midnight Campfire collection deals with the themes of connection and separation. It is an exploration of finding contentment in the present moment. Gathering around a campfire became the way our extended family stayed connected during the past year. I hope this collection evokes a memory of a campfire in your past. Perhaps the mesmerizing glowing embers help us contemplate connection while we gather with those we hold most dear.

### Artist Bio

Erin is an Oakland-based artist and ceramicist. She is known for her tactile, wheel-thrown ceramics. Organic, texturally-rich and sensory are some of the words used to describe her pieces.

Erin sees restaurants as a live gallery in which people can touch, hold, feel and use her art. Ceramics have been a part of Erin's life for the past 20 years. She has been a teacher, a production potter and co-managed a pottery studio. Her current focus is creating custom collections of wheel-thrown tableware for upscale restaurants in the San Francisco Bay Area. To Erin, fine dining is a perfect venue to break down the division of functional versus fine art in the ceramics world. Fine art can be useful; useful objects can be fine art. Erin's work strives to be both functional because to experience her work is to use it, and fine art because of her passionate and artistic manipulation of clay.

"Her work is texturally rich, featuring glazes that crackle and pop in the kiln and colors that cascade over each other like the melted edges of an ice cream sundae. The drip of a white glaze on a cake stand might suggest the drips of chocolate ganache on the bundt cake set on top of it, while an inky black streak drawn across a white plate can serve as a guide for a contrasting swipe of sauce. It draws attention while being hyper-aware of its ultimate utility." Soleil Ho, San Francisco Chronicle 2021