

## Jose Flores Nava Artist Statement

As a potter, it's my job to give meaning to the vessel. Vessels that are used as a substitute to the human body; vessels that resemble outdoor utilitarian objects; or vessels that echo the phrase "farm to table."

As an immigrant it's my duty to use my voice to speak about the undocumented laborer. The laborer that grows, picks and cook your food. The laborer that went from being "low-skilled" to "essential." The laborer that fits the general consensus of undocumented immigrants doing the jobs Americans don't want to do. The laborer that is talked about using statistics rather than their humanity. The laborer that gets left out from a lot of conversations.

As a maker, I slip-cast vegetables in order to make those produce everlasting yet fragile. Produce cast with red and brown earth that sustains us all. Produce painted bright and joyful to help make their presence known.

### Biography

Jose M. Flores Nava is a Southern California based artist. He was born in Mexico and moved to California at age 12. While interest in the visual arts came at an early age, it was not until college that he decided to pursue art as a field of study. Using a combination of ceramic hand building techniques, slip cast objects, and brightly colored surface treatments, he creates sculptures that are reflections of the undocumented immigrant community. He focuses on the relationship between the undocumented community, products of labor and familiar objects that we often take for granted. The sculptures are sometimes nested in forms associated with outdoor utilitarian needs, as well as nested in domestic vessels' consisting of platters and bowls. Echoing the commercial phrase "farm-to-table," Nava's work asks the viewer to consider not only the means that sustain our society, but also, the individuals whose labor said society depends on.

Jose Flores Nava holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Fine Arts from California State University Fullerton. He is a DACA recipient and is currently pursuing a career as a teacher. Places he has exhibited include, Grand Central Art Center, Irvine Fine Arts Center, the American Museum of Ceramic Art, Riverside Art Museum, Brea Gallery, ALMA'S RVA, Eutectic Gallery, and Norther Clay Center.