

# Fired & Forged

Eisen Tamkun and Kern Tamkun



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## Kern Tamkun

### Artist Statement

I am fond of objects and how they percolate within our lives on a level that is often unacknowledged. Pots can expand our dialogue within communities, relationships, and partnerships. My artistic practice hones the act of communion through the creation of utilitarian ceramic wares. Individuals habitually come together to share stories and information, these interactions are often accompanied by food or drink. Ceramic wares have been at the heart of these exchanges for centuries.

The potter's wheel has been used throughout human history to create utilitarian pots. I am able to replicate forms while allowing the hand to be present in each piece. Individual impressions I leave as a maker alter how each piece interacts with the next. The craft theorist, David Pye explores similar ideas surrounding workmanship, those of certainty and those of risk in his book, *The Nature and Art of Workmanship*. The repetitive and responsive nature of the potter's wheel allows for my craft to seek consistency while embracing the subtle variation. By using the potter's wheel I honor this long lineage of making and consumption. While food has the power to bring people together, my work aims to facilitate in communion.

## Technical Statement

My process when approaching clay as a material is rooted greatly in tradition. There is something about the long history of the potters wheel as a tool that attracts me as a maker. Majority of my work is thrown on the wheel and trimmed. I do this before adding other components such as handles, spouts, and lids.

For handles I use the traditional method of pulling for each handles all them to set up and then attach them to the piece. After that I spend a considerable amount of time with each piece to add and subtract clay in areas to achieve the desired transition from form to handle and back to form. Often times I am using only a sponge and my hands. At times the assistance of a wooden knife tool is required as well.

For spouts and lids I am also using the potters wheel as a way of generating the form. Spouts are simple and require little attention after the throwing before they are attached. Lids are trimmed when leather hard and then set into the top of my vessels when I trim the top portion of the vessel.

My teapot and ewer along with most of my lidded forms are thrown in multiple pieces. Allowing for the forms to be exactly as I want them to me at a specified size. This also allows for the fit of each lid to be strong and exact because I am trimming the opening to the vessel into the top portion of them form.

I use a variety of glaze for my work. It is mostly two base glazes in which I am adding red iron oxide, rutile, nickel, cobalt. I am interested in earthen colors with pops of color on individual pieces. I also worked with the salt kiln selectin my glazes as ones that were interesting in both oxidation and atmospheric kilns. The glazes I selected were the result of extensive testing of different recipes and combinations.

Kim's Orange Brown

Kona F4 Minspar- 45%

Silica- 15%

EPK- 5%

Dolomite-9%

Talc-13%

Gerstly Borate-13%

Additions:

Red iron oxide- 2%

Rutile- 5%

Tin oxide- 5%

Bentonite-2%

Honey Comb

Kona F4 Minspar- 40%

Gerstly Borate- 30%

OM4 Ball Clay- 20%

Silica- 10%

Additions:

Rutile-5%

V.C. 72 Base

Neph Sy.-24%

Dolomite-11%

Gerstly Borate-12%

Whiting-4%

Zinc Oxide-2%

EPK-7%

Silica-40%

Additions: Combinations of each used for different glaze results

Rutile-5%

Cobalt-2%

Copper-.25%

Chun Celedon

Kona F4 Minspar-38%

Silica-30%

Whiting-14%

EPK-6%

Zinc Oxide-12%

Additions: Each in separate glazes

Red Iron Oxide- 8%

Nickel-2%

**Title****Original Format**

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Figure 1: Drying Plates	Stoneware, Glaze, Wood	9" x 24" x 9"
Figure 2: Drying Plates (Detail)	Stoneware, Glaze, Wood	9" x 24" x 9"
Figure 3: Drying Plates (Detail)	Stoneware, Glaze, Wood	9" x 24" x 9"
Figure 4: Cup Cabinet	Stoneware, Glaze, Wood	33" x 18" x 10"
Figure 5: Ewer and Cups	Stoneware, Glaze	14" x 9" x 9"
Figure 6: Stacking Bowls	Stoneware, Glaze	12" x 9" x 9"
Figure 7: Serving Bowl	Stoneware, Glaze	6" x 15" x 15"
Figure 8: Serving Bowl	Stoneware, Glaze	6" x 16" x 16"
Figure 9: Morning Tea	Stoneware, Glaze	8" x 7" x 7"
Figure 10: Morning Tea (Detail)	Stoneware, Glaze	8" x 7" x 7"



**Figure 1: Drying Plates**



**Figure 2: Drying Plates (Detail)**





**Figure 3: Drying Plates (Detail)**



**Figure 4: Cup Cabinet**



**Figure 5: Ewer and Cups**



**Figure 6: Stacking Bowls**



**Figure 7: Serving Bowl**



**Figure 8: Serving Bowl**



**Figure 9: Morning Tea**



**Figure 10: Morning Tea (Detail)**