

LYONS WIER GALLERY

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Michael Boroniec

Michael Boroniec's *Collections* series is comprised of two collections, **Gourd Vessels** and **Spatial Spirals**, that investigate ceramic material through vessel form.

Collections: Gourd Vessels are works that stem from a long tradition of emulating the gourd in utilitarian wares since the Neolithic age. The works are wheel thrown with a localized clay body found in Berkshire County, MA, and finished in a second firing with a smooth satin black glaze giving it the feel of compressed carbon. The forms become purely sculptural objects as the extreme long neck removes any utilitarian purpose. These vessels are the second iteration of Boroniec's *Gourd Vessel* series originally exhibited at the Fuller Craft Museum in Massachusetts in 2006.

Collections: Spatial Spirals What began with a single spiral has evolved into a series of vessels that vary in form, degree of expansion, and number of coils. Each piece is wheel thrown then deconstructed. This process reveals aspects of the vessel that most rarely encounter. Within the walls, maker's marks become evident and contribute to the texture. The resultant ribbon effect, reminiscent of a wheel trimming, lends fragility, elegance, and motion to a medium generally perceived as hard and heavy. This emphasizes a resistance of gravity, allowing negative space to unravel and become part of the form. The result is a body of sculptural objects resembling and born of functional vessels.

A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design (2006), Michael Boroniec (b. 1983) has shown in numerous museums and galleries throughout the United States in both group and solo exhibitions including the Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale, Icheon Cerapia in Gyeonggi-do Province, Korea, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA; Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, MA; Boise Art Museum, Idaho; the New York Ceramics and Glass Fair; National Bohemian Hall, New York; Albany Institute of Art and History, NY, and the Sculptural Objects Functional Art and Design Fair (SOFA), Chicago, IL. Boroniec has been featured in two juried RISD Biennial exhibitions including "RISD Routes: Contemporary Craft by New England Alumni" juried by David Revere McFadden, the former director of The Museum of Art and Design, New York. The artist lives and works in Berkshire County, MA.