

MICHAEL SIMON
PICK OF THE KILN: ARTIST ARCHIVE

Ferrin Contemporary presents selected works by Michael Simon from [Pick of the Kiln: Artist Archive](#). These works can be viewed in person in Massachusetts by appointment and inquiries are welcome.

In 2005, Simon ended his active pottery practice for reasons related to his health. At that time, he embarked on a long study of the works he had gathered during his lifetime, preserving one from each kiln load since the early 70's. With his wife, Susan Roberts, these works were photographed, documented and discussed with select scholars, colleagues and friends. A monograph, *Evolution*, was published by Northern Clay Center in 2011 as a comprehensive fully illustrated, chronology of his life's work. Roberts served as editor and art director. The essays include important written contributions from Warren MacKenzie, Emily Galsuha, Mark Pharis, Glen R. Brown and Mark Shapiro.

Asked about the criteria for selection of these works, Michael explains (they were) "chosen by me because these pots displayed a better rim or clay wall or image vs form. I saved them for reference as I moved forward...stepping stones guiding my path. I usually picked one from each kiln load." - Michael Simon, 2020

Since 2015, Leslie Ferrin has worked closely with Michael and Susan to make these works available to museums, scholars and private collectors who seek out works from the archive. "I've had the unique privilege of knowing Michael Simon for over 25 years, beginning with a relationship built through periodic exhibitions at our shop and gallery, PINCH in Northampton, MA. When the time came to consider the next step for the Pick of the Kiln: Artist Archive collection, I was honored to be asked and fortunate to be able to say yes.

When working together, not a day with Michael goes by without learning something new about him and his work. His ability to articulate his practice, his deeply held beliefs and knowledge of ceramics is conveyed through each conversation. This enabled me to provide background to each work in the Pick of the Kiln archive. Our conversations, many recorded, serve to record the important, numerous personal connections to his students, to his colleagues and the large, extended community of studio potters beginning for Michael in the class of '70 with his teacher, Warren MacKenzie and the Leach tradition in America.

With each visit, we continue to explore the works, the library and personal papers providing artistic and written connections to this family tree. We learn more from each curator as they make connections with Michael to historic reference and source material, the ancient pots and objects from world cultures, many that he was first introduced to as a student looking at the pots and vessels in the permanent collections of the Weisman Museum and Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Additional information about Simon including his [Smithsonian Archives of American Art recorded oral history](#), interviews, videos, articles and essays are available through FerrinContemporary.com/portfolio/Michael-Simon.