

Echoes: An Undergraduate Thesis Research

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Abstract

This poster examines my work for my senior exhibition in ceramics, entitled *Echoes*. The body of work explores how memories are recollected using figurative, abstracted ceramic pieces that are centered around my experiences within the culture of an incredibly small, private grade school. I want to prompt the viewer to contemplate the function that memories play in their own lives. In addition to examining such issues, the poster will emphasize both process and technique.

In my process, I seek to marry the concept of recollection with mark making and surface treatment. I use the plasticity and textural properties of the clay to create a balance of hard and soft visual edges in each piece. Expressive, gestural marks create movement, character, and surface texture that draw in the viewer. By abstracting and economizing form, I represent the nature of memories in which details may become distorted over time. Technique is also integral to my intended outcomes.

The clay is fired in an oxidation atmosphere to allow for rich coloration. The pieces receive layers of terra sigillata, underglaze washes, and oxides to add depth and draw out the surface textures. The color palette consists mainly of muted colors with richer accents. Through abstraction, surface texture, and color, these pieces aim to convey the universal act of remembering, using my own memories as a vessel for exploration.

Concept

Memory can only truly be experienced by the individual, therefore by using my own as the vessel for exploration, I invite the viewer to consider the role that memories play in their own lives: its importance, how it affects each individual, and how the human mind recollects them.

Process

Pieces are built (fig. 1), allowed to dry, bisque fired (fig. 2), and given its surface treatments (fig. 3) before its final firing to complete the work.

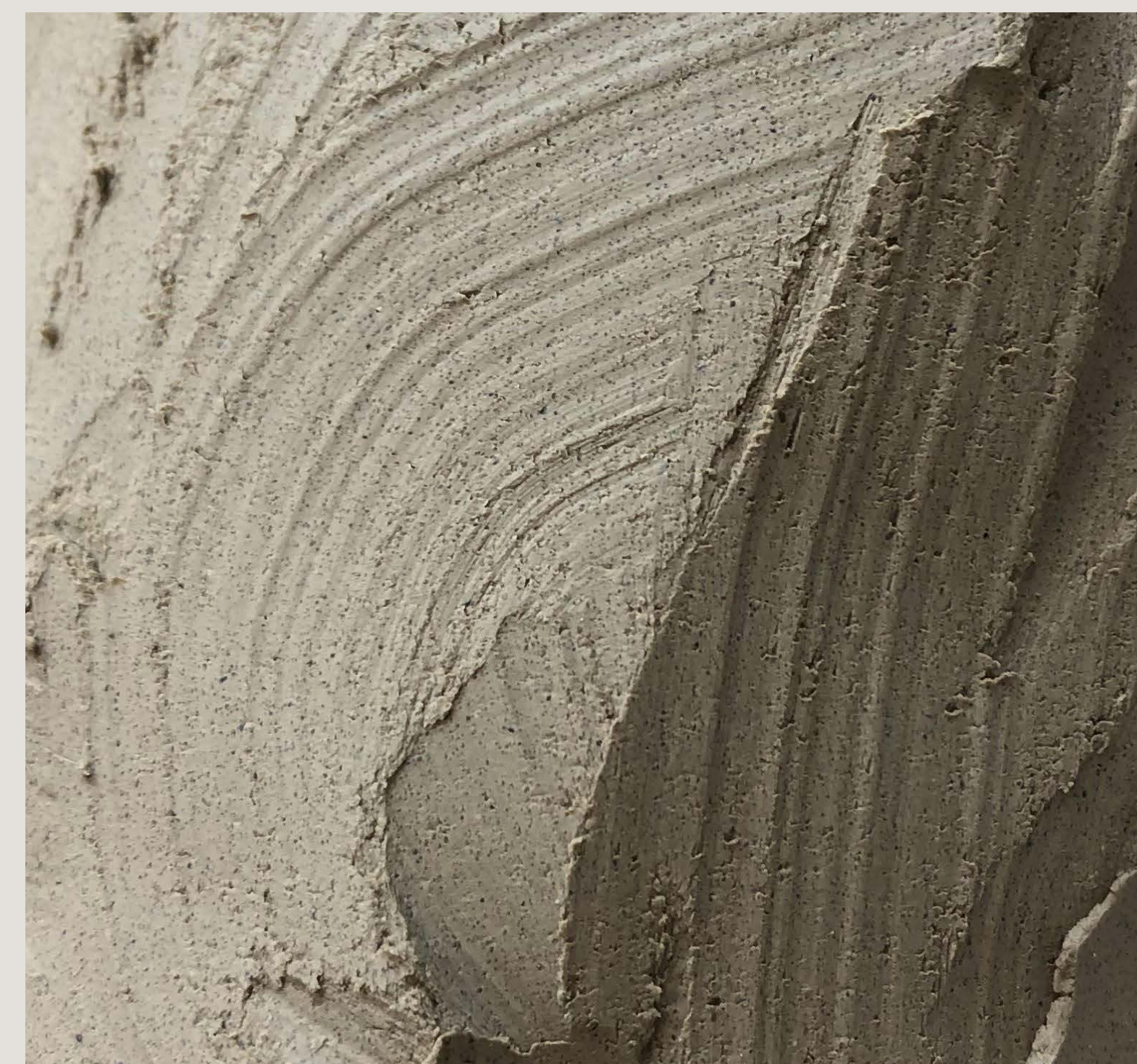


Figure 1

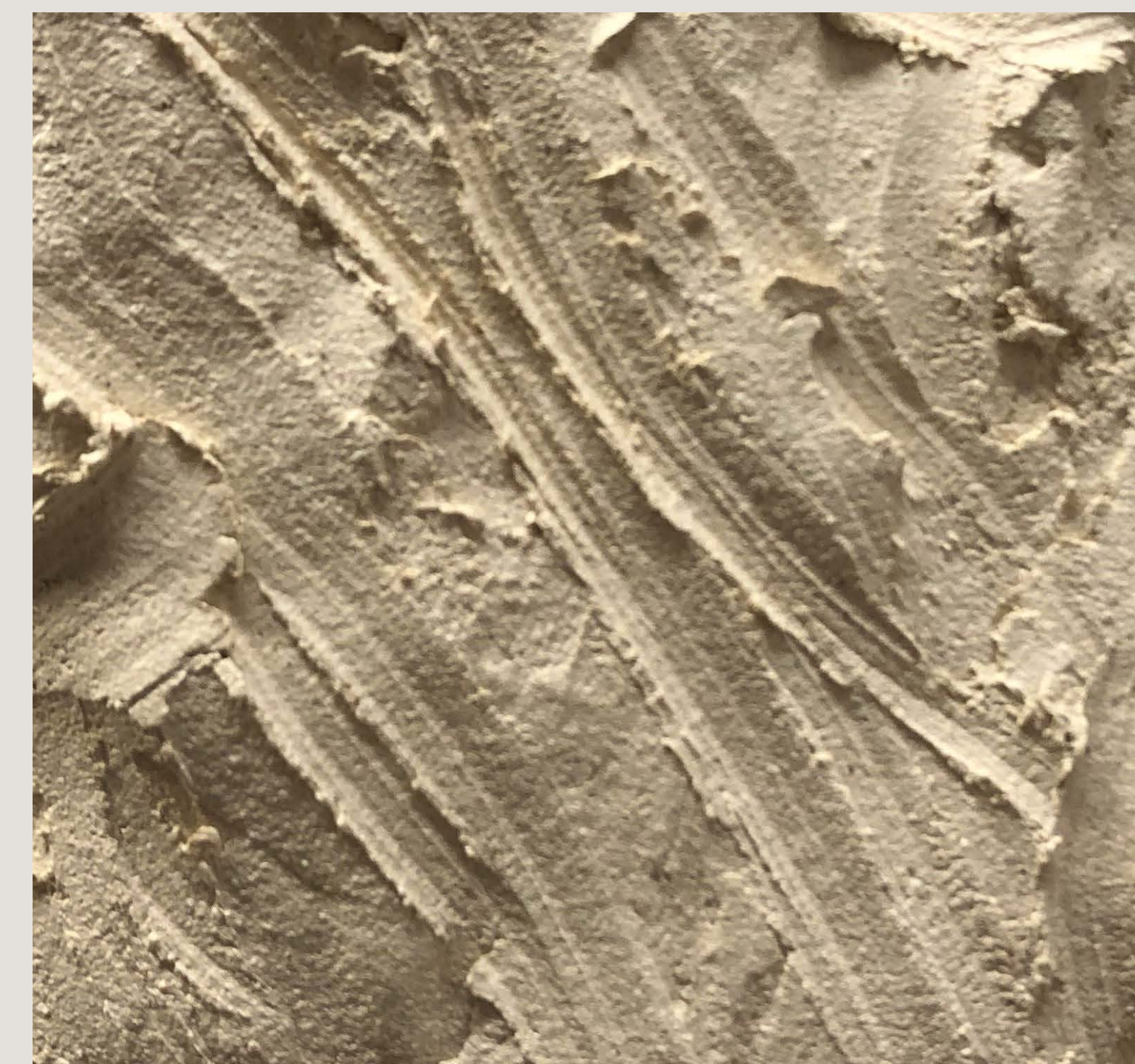


Figure 2



Figure 3

Beginning with a simple sketch of a specific memory, each piece goes through several stages between its initial development and construction, resulting in a surface with intricate layers of texture and detail.

