

Melissa Mencini

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Artist Statement

Historical and antique medical devices are the focus of my ceramic sculpture. This body of work concentrates on the interaction of objects, color, movement, and mass.

I carefully choose either small parts or entire antique objects to recreate distorting the scale to remove them from their original context. This forces the viewer into a challenging and sometimes uncomfortable relationship with the object. Constructing my work is a complicated task where I coil-build, throw and alter many parts before entire pieces take their final shape. I then glaze them using rust-like textured glazes, contrasting very shiny glazes and decals further removing them from their original shiny metal environment. I intend for my work to elicit a physical reaction, whether it is cringing, questioning or smiling, this allows the viewer to experience the piece.

Clay allows me the freedom to re-establish and reinvent many small and delicate parts of medical devices that were once overlooked, on a scale that relates to the human body. Although the process sometimes restricts me, I am allowed the freedom of abstraction which adds a new sensitivity to the original forms. This body of work continuously challenges me which I find to be incredibly rewarding.