

Impressionist Pots

Project One: Ceramics and the painted field

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February 27, 2002

**Ceramics 230 XX
Professor: Penelope Kokkinos**

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Project Research and Images

In order to demonstrate the reciprocal use of ceramics and painting, I have chosen still life paintings from the Impressionist period. More precisely I have chosen a series of still life paintings that were done between 1880 and 1900 by the impressionist artist Paul Cézanne. Two things generated my interest in these paintings. First, I was drawn to the very delicate tonal harmonies that he created by the use of subtle changes in rich earthy tones versus vibrant bright colours that one may think of in still life paintings with fruit. Secondly, the forms of the still life ceramic objects themselves are very simple objects that he would have had around his studio at that time. I imagine that the very heavy and solid feelings of these ceramic pieces are very representative of the lower class ceramic items in the late 19th century, which Cézanne was most likely part of. I appropriated these elements from these still life paintings bringing them to a new space and created new “hybrid” ceramic pots, which are inspired by both the simple, solid form and decorated as if they were taken from an impressionist painting.

The following still life paintings by Cézanne were used as my source of inspiration for this project.¹

- *The Blue Vase*, oil on canvas, 61 x 50 cm (24 x 19 5/8 in), 1883-1887, Musée d'Orsay, Paris
- *Still Life with Plate of Cherries*, oil on canvas, 58.1 x 68.9 cm (22 7/8 x 27 in), 1885-1887, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- *Ginger Jar and Fruit*, oil on canvas, 73 x 60 cm (28 3/4 x 23 5/8 in), 1895, The Barnes Foundation, Merion, Pennsylvania
- *Still Life*, oil on canvas, 25 5/8 x 31 7/8 in, 1883-1887, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University
- *Still Life with Onions and Bottle*, oil on canvas, 26 x 31 7/8 in, 1895-1900, The Louvre, Paris
- *Still Life with Peppermint Bottle*, oil on canvas, 25 5/8 x 31 7/8 in, 1890-1994, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- *Still Life with Commode*, oil on canvas, 73.3 x 92.2 cm (28 7/8 x 36 3/8 in), 1883-1887, Bayerische Staatsgemaldesammlungen, Munich

¹ WebMuseum: Cézanne, Paul, <http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/cezanne/>

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Ceramic Pieces

Pot #	Clay body	Firings	Decoration and Glazing
1	Stoneware	Cone 08 Bisque	
		Cone 9 Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White mat glaze • Yellow, Old Gold, Persimmon and Chartreuse Maiolica stains applied on top of the glaze
2	Stoneware	Cone 08 Bisque	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue and green Terra Sigillata applied to greenware
		Cone 9 Oxidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear glaze
3	Stoneware	Cone 08 Bisque	
		Cone 9 Oxidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pale Blue glaze • Orchid, Mazarine Blue and Crimson Maiolica stains applied on top of the glaze
		Cone 018 Overglaze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Sapphire and Flag Blue overglaze
4	Stoneware	Cone 08 Bisque	
		Cone 9 Oxidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celdon glaze • Rottle yellow wash applied on top of the glaze
5	Stoneware	Cone 08 Bisque	
		Cone 9 Oxidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White mat glaze
		Cone 018 Overglaze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear yellow, yellow albert, eve green, and flesh overglaze
6	Stoneware	Cone 08 Bisque	
		Cone 9 Oxidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celdon glaze • Yellow and chartreuse Maiolica stains applied on top of the glaze
7	Stoneware	Cone 08 Bisque	
		Cone 9 Oxidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rattlesnake glaze • Chartreuse and Persimmon Maiolica stains applied on top of the glaze