

# The Aesthetics of Unglazed Ceramic and Its Symbolism: Makoto Hatori's Artist Statement

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The decision to forgo glazes and focus on the inherent qualities of clay, embodying the essence of "ceramics," is the cornerstone of my creative philosophy. This parallels the delicate texture of white Japanese paper, representing a deliberate artistic choice that accentuates the unique attributes of the chosen material. In the case of clay, this entails highlighting its natural color, texture, and form, allowing the material to speak for itself without an added layer of glaze.

This artistic decision infused my work with layers of symbolism and visual depth in several ways.

1) **Symbolism of Simplicity:** Similar to the associations of white Japanese paper with simplicity, purity, and minimalism in Japanese culture, opting for unglazed ceramic symbolizes a return to simplicity and an appreciation for the raw, unadorned beauty of the material.

2) **Textural and Sensory Experience:** Just as white Japanese paper invites touch and exploration owing to its delicate texture, unglazed ceramic engages viewers on a tactile level. The texture of the clay surface has become an integral part of my artwork, inviting viewers to physically connect with it.

3) **Natural Aesthetics:** Both unglazed ceramic and white Japanese paper showcase natural aesthetics. The color and texture of clay may evoke associations with earth, stone, or organic materials, whereas white Japanese paper often brings to mind the purity and tranquility of nature.

4) **Cultural Significance:** White Japanese paper is deeply rooted in Japanese artistic traditions and is used in various traditional art forms such as calligraphy and origami. Likewise, the choice of unglazed ceramic may draw on cultural and artistic traditions, creating a connection with the heritage of ceramics.

5) **Visual Depth:** By forgoing glazes, I can create different types of visual depth in my work. Subtle variations in clay color and texture provide a nuanced multidimensional experience for viewers. Light and shadows are crucial in highlighting these variations, adding depth and complexity to the artwork.

Overall, my decision to work with unglazed ceramic, akin to the choice to use white Japanese paper, serves as a deliberate artistic statement that transcends aesthetics. This enriches my work with layers of symbolism, cultural significance, and sensory engagement, providing viewers with deeper and more meaningful artistic experiences.