Art Speak

Let's Talk about this and learn about the artist.

I create ceramic works that awaken trace memories of childhood experiences I had growing up in the rural Midwest. My father's side of the family has for generations been involved with carpentry, mechanics and farming. When I was growing up, the norm was to make what you needed whenever possible. This was true of everything from the house we lived in, to the cars we drove. I have wonderful memories of visits to my grandfather's farm in Grand Marais, Minnesota. In the barn, the horse harnesses were still hanging where they were left after the first tractor was brought in, and that first tractor was rusting on its metal wheels out back. There were endlessly fascinating ruins to be explored. Rusted license plates and wire, radiator cans and the hubcaps off a '36 Ford have, for me, the strength to evoke the smells, sounds and tastes of my own places of becoming. These are places that could spin yarns about first cars, first times and how treasures become broken. I believe that sharing with others the things that have made us who we are enlarges our understanding of what it can mean to be human. I am interested in working with imagery and processes that are true to both my nature and nurture.

Artist Statement:
Steve Hansen

Steve Hansen holds a BFA from Andrews University and an MFA from University of Notre Dame. He is currently Professor, Chairman of the Department of Art and Design at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Project Art welcomes viewer comments and questions. Please contact Marsha Howe at marsha-howe@uiowa.edu