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Point of Inflection

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Recommended Citation

Stein, Jonathan and Stein, Jonathan D., "Point of Inflection" (2017). *All Graduate Plan B and other Reports*. 953.

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Jonathan Stein Artist Statement

In chess the queen is arguably the most powerful piece on the board. It has more freedom of movement than any of its counterparts. The functional concerns of pottery would be more akin to a knight. With a fixed range of motion, a knight must be used creatively to be effective. Like a knight, the pots I make have certain fixed attributes. A mug must hold coffee and a tea pot should pour well. Within the confines of utility I find great room for exploration and expression. The quality of a curve and the point at which it changes direction can create a sense of volume or restriction. When this is repeated multiple times within a form, complex visual relationships are formed. Each consideration informs the next and requires its own solution. Within a single tea pot the stride from foot to waist, belly, shoulder, handle and spout must all be balanced visually to make someone want to pick it up. My best works are poised and invite use. When used they perform well and reward the user for their investigation.