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5-2019

## Finding Balance

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### Recommended Citation

Maher, Quinn, "Finding Balance" (2019). *All Graduate Plan B and other Reports*. 1392.  
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## Artist Statement

My ceramic work is influenced by my love of the outdoors. Hills, mountains and rivers that I interact with when I am hiking or camping are the reference points for the surface I look to achieve on my pottery. I am intrigued by the surfaces and textures that take place when water affects both natural and manmade landscapes, and the patterns and colors produced by the erosion that occurs during the changing seasons. My work, through functional ceramics, seeks to explore these natural occurrences and bring them to daily ritual objects.

## Exhibition Statement

Finding Balance is my exploration into the relationship between form, firing, and utility.

In the studio I pay close attention the silhouette of each piece, looking for strong continuous lines in both the positive and negative space accentuating the volume created on the potter's wheel. I spend time with each piece combing the surface to create texture and reveal the course particles below the surface. As I apply white slip to this textures surface, the high points allow the fluid slip to break and pool in recessed areas creating a layer of depth and variety. The white slip reacts in the firing process, to achieve results rarely expected.

I use both atmospheric and gas firings to mark the work in unpredictable ways. I use wood and soda kilns to create natural direction and movement on the surface of the wares. In the gas kiln I applied glaze and controlled cooling of the kiln to achieve blooms of colors through the surface. The works displayed are made with an iron rich clay with a white slip applied to the surface. The surfaces are achieved through the use of atmospheric firing processes; wood firing, soda firing, and gas firing with applied glaze. These wares are fired to cone 3 (about 2100 F).

Utility is strong motivation for me. I think about the objects that we surround ourselves with and more importantly the relationships we may or may not have with them. I hope to create useful objects that can actively participate in one's life.