

Linda Swanson
Artist's Statement

Nature as an idea is conventionally opposed to culture, yet how we conceive of and find meaning in nature is a cultural process. My work draws on the inherent qualities of ceramic materials as both 'natural' and 'artificial', and their ability to act as effective mediators between our conceptions of nature and culture. The properties of these materials and the processes they undergo are the means by which I develop my work. I set up solutions of raw clay and glaze materials to change states, evolving over time at ambient temperatures. In the kiln, I melt clay and crystalline glaze to points of extreme tension, which then releases itself through deformations in cooling. The resulting pieces recall geologic formations framed within a regular geometric format. The inherent beauty in both geometries and their disjunction in the work require us to pause. As 'landscapes' of light and materiality they allow us to contemplate the idea of the natural and our relationship to it in an intimate way.