

Ecumene

GLOBAL INTERFACE IN  
AMERICAN CERAMICS



## ECUMENE: GLOBAL INTERFACE IN AMERICAN CERAMICS

*Handmade objects are a reflection of people and place long before the separation of utility from beauty. Nowhere is this more true than in the garments of indigenous cultures of Guatemala and Mexico. Huipils, blouses of Mayan women, relate their ancient and modern histories through the weave and design of every handmade piece of clothing. Not only do I admire Mayan huipils as symbols of identity and protectors of culture, I feel a deep connection with fellow craftswomen who spend hours stitching them by hand. After being surrounded by these textiles during the 2 years I lived in Guatemala I find them extraordinarily visually appealing, as well as having a deep connection to that place. As I come to understand my own diverse cultural and personal experiences I aim to combine these influences with my personality to secure a sense of self and belonging in a transcultural society.*

*I am beginning to define my larger goals and build a vision for how I can use my passion for pottery as a vehicle to unite people. I am a humanitarian at heart and have an intense desire to build understanding and compassion between diverse people and cultures. I see potential to do this through interacting with diverse people to inform my design, the layers of meaning I create, the use of my work itself, and how my work gets into communities to find users.*

Lauren Karle is presently a graduate student at Kansas State University.

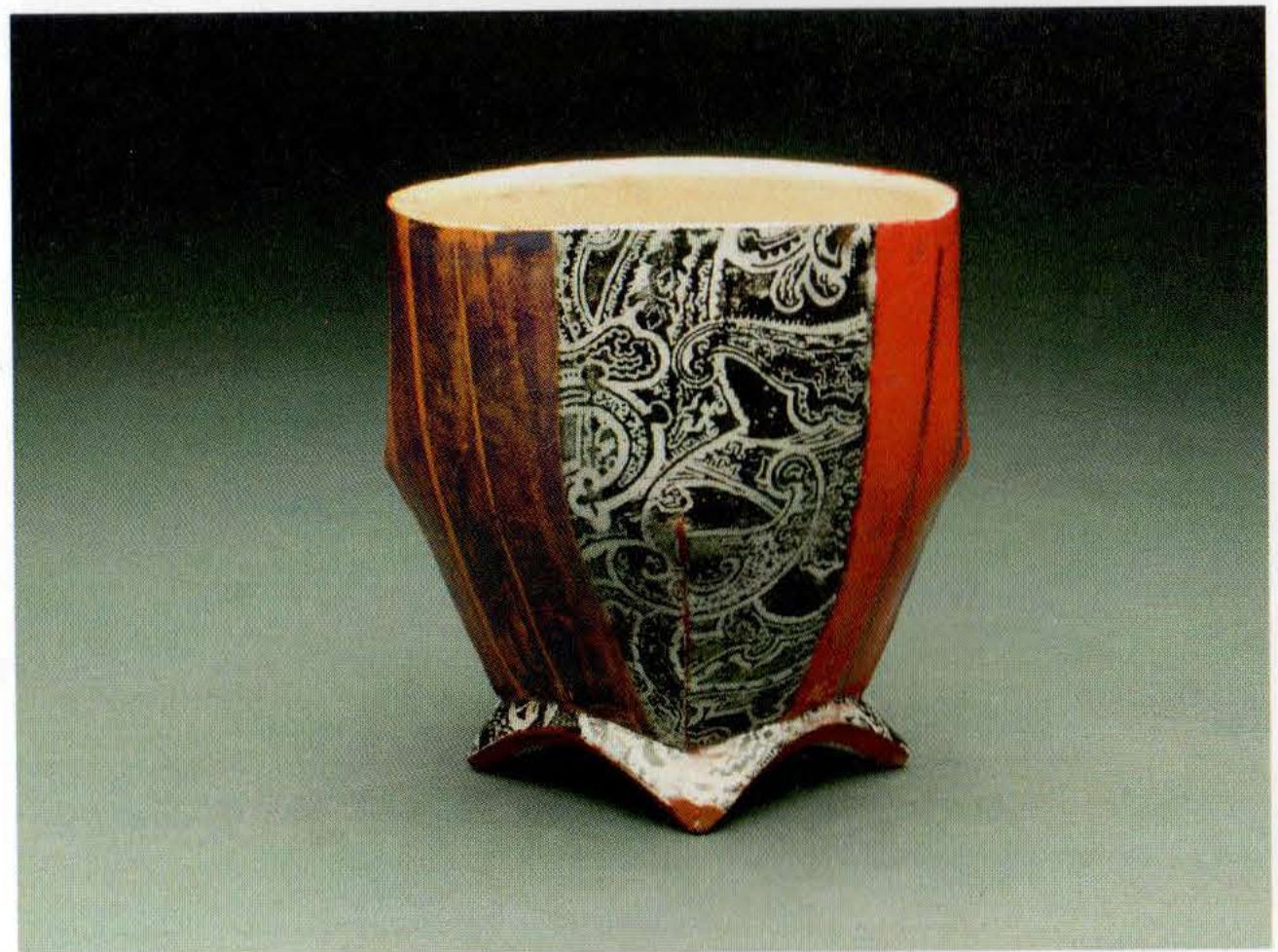
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Lauren Karle | MANHATTAN  
KANSAS





Lauren Karle  
*Cup*, 2011  
Earthenware, slip transfers  
4 x 4 x 4 Inches



Lauren Karle  
*Cup*, 2012  
Earthenware, slip transfers  
3.5 x 4 x 4 Inches