



# Inspirational Ceramics from Inspiration Artist Bowie Croisant

By Colin Lobdell

The arts can awaken curiosity, offer new perspectives, and convey different ways of understanding our environment and ourselves. Just ask ceramic artist Bowie Croisant. “I enjoy allowing my work to be open to multiple interpretations as well as orientations...The elaborate vessels that I create communicate a sense of refinement and the exacting nature of the mould-making and slip-casting process,” says the artist who received a BFA in Ceramics from Kansas State University in 2007 before studying at the Kansas City Art Institute.

Croisant’s ceramic work began in functional wheel thrown ware, but while in Kansas City evolved into ornate sculptural vessels and modular geometric constructions. He credits his original course study at KSU in Engineering/Computer Science for understanding the Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) software which he used to “visualize objects prior to their construction” for the background of his artwork.

Now, drawing praise in the last year from *Ceramics Monthly* as an emerging artist and featured on the cover of *Pottery Illustrated*, Croisant is planning to make the conversion from a regional to global artist through his participation with Project Network, a symposium and studio residency designed to create international dialogue, and is scheduled to present a co-lecture on Digital Design and Ceramic Art at the 2011 National Conference for the Education of Ceramic Artists (NCECA).

“I will be attending Project Network from November 2<sup>nd</sup> through December 14<sup>th</sup>,” says Croisant. Project Network is a residency in Denmark. “I will arrive in Copenhagen several days early to seek inspiration and spend time designing new modular components to be constructed during the residency.” Croisant’s goal, while there, is to experiment and gain a new global perspective. Each artist will produce an independent studio project that will culminate in a group exhibition at the conclusion of the program.

In turn, he hopes to have his new molds shipped back to Kansas City and new works where they can be presented at an exhibition. In the meantime, however, some of his work will be available at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art Museum store, Red Star Studios Gallery and distributed to patrons who pledge funds through his Kickstarter.com fundraising site.

However, none of this would have been possible without the help of the ArtsKC Fund. Entrepreneurial artists such as Croisant rely on the support, involvement, and interaction of the local community to explore possibilities and progress their work. “The grant is instrumental in helping to keep my practice viable. The cost of my project would have been well out of my means without the help of the Inspiration grant and other fundraising efforts,” Croisant said.

This was Bowie Croisant’s first time receiving funds as an Inspiration Grant recipient. To learn more about Bowie Croisant please visit his website at <http://bowiecroisant.wordpress.com/>. To learn more about the ArtsKC Fund and our other grant recipients please visit our website at [www.artskc.org](http://www.artskc.org).