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Sabbatical Report  

Part I  

Original Sabbatical Plan  
In my original sabbatical application, I proposed spending a large portion of the year documenting the ceramics tradition of Northern Luzon Island in the Philippines. For financial reasons, this sabbatical plan changed, as the travel dates grew closer.  

Change of Plans  
In the preceding months I had relocated to Petaluma from El Cerrito in order to convert a small space at 620 Petaluma Blvd into a live-work studio and gallery. The mission of the Studio C2 was to bring high quality ceramic art to Sonoma County, with a series of group and solo exhibitions throughout the year. StudioC2 Gallery opened on August 22nd 2015 after undergoing a 2-month interior renovation, business licensing and permitting processes. The exhibitions over the next several months included; my own work; solo and group shows by regional artists; along with former and current Sonoma State University Art Department students. During this time, Studio C2 received favorable press (examples can be found on the gallery website). The gallery was closed for finical reasons in April of 2016. For a detailed listing of the exhibitions and artists please visit the following web pages;  
http://studioc2.squarespace.com/ or  
https://www.facebook.com/gregoryrobertsstudioC2/?fref=ts  

The obligations of opening and running a commercial enterprise were enlightening, but ultimately unsustainable. Petaluma’s ‘up and coming’ vibrancy never trickled to our area located north of Washington Street. However, I do believe that within 3-5 years this location would be able to support art-centered businesses. From the beginning, Studio C2 was a self-funded experiment, which was worth every penny, but by the end of April it was clear that my personal funds would not be enough to travel abroad.  

- Learning outcomes include; an understanding of state and local requirements when opening a small business, gaining of skills in curatorial practices, public relations, web, graphic and exhibition design.  
- From this experience, I was invited to curate the 3rd Annual Emerging Artists Exhibition at the Healdsburg Center for the Arts, opening October 20th 2016
Part II

Studio C2 was also my primary ceramic studio from July 2015 to June 2016. Along with managing the gallery, I began to incorporate sound and more specifically smart phones into my ceramic work. My ceramic work over the years seeks to marry ancient ceramic traditions with contemporary technological advances. The Phono-Phone was partly developed out of the frustrated of watching students damage their smart phones in the ceramics studio and the poor sound quality the devices produce on their own. The original goal was to develop forms that would keep phones safe from water and dust, while improving the sound quality and volume. The designs expanded from simple wall horns to handmade designs for the desk top, to large one-of-a-kind sculptural pieces for exterior spaces.

All pieces in the Phono-Phone series are handmade from stoneware clays using wheel, hand building and slip casting techniques. They were first introduced in The Gift exhibition at Studio C2 and subsequently at the 2016 San Francisco Decorator Showcase, Clay and Glass at the Healdsburg Center for the Arts and are slated to be exhibited in November 2016 for the Window Gallery at the Museums of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa CA.


Re Location to Petaluma

- Studio C2 opened on August 22nd - 620 Petaluma Blvd N. Petaluma CA
- Exhibitions
  - HARVEST: Yero Rudzinskas, a solo exhibition. October 10th – 30th
  - GOBLET: Wyatt Amend, a solo exhibition. November 5th – December 5th
  - THE GIFT: a Group Show, December 10th – January 10th
  - Student of Clay: SSU Student Show, February 18-27th

Phono-Phone Development and Exhibition

- First shown at the Gift Show
- San Francisco Decorator Showcase
- Fifth Annual Clay and Glass, Healdsburg Center for the Arts
- Up coming; Window Gallery, at the Museums of Sonoma, Santa Rosa, CA November 2016.

Curation

Third Annual, Emerging Artist Show at the Healdsburg Center for the Arts

Travel:

NCECA Conference The 50th Anniversary Conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts was held in Kansas City MO from March16-19th.
Studio Visit with Kathy King, Director of Education, Ceramics Program, Office for the Arts at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
phone~phone:
noun

1) handmade passive amplifier, utilizing natural acoustics to enhance the smart phone listening experience.

2) original design created by Gregory Roberts at his studio located in Santa Rosa, CA
Gregory Roberts, is a ceramic artist with a career spanning over two decades, living and working in Northern California. In 1992, Roberts was the first artist to sculpt honeycomb ceramics to create art, bringing a completely unique material to the clay and glass world. These works were first shown at Dorothy Weiss Gallery in San Francisco. After completing a Masters of Fine Arts at Mills College, his MFA thesis exhibition (Working Late) was selected for the San Francisco Art Dealers Association, Introductions Exhibition at Dorothy Weiss Gallery. He has been Artist-in-Residence at the Oregon School of Arts and Crafts and had his first solo exhibition (Small Business) at Butters Gallery in Portland, OR in 1995. He has been on the faculty of the Department of Art at Sonoma State University for 15 years where he has served as the head of the Art and Art History Department. An archive of his work can be found at: www.gregoryroberts.us

GREGORY ROBERTS STUDIO

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WEB
www.studioc2.squarespace.com/gray
The Roberts Phono~Phone was developed in 2015 at his studio in Northern California.

Frustrated by watching students damage their smart phones in the ceramics studio and the poor sound quality the devices produce on their own, he began to develop forms that would keep phones safe from water and dust, while dramatically improving the sound quality and volume. His designs have expanded from simple wall forms to handmade designs for the desk to large one-of-a-kind sculptural pieces.

low-tech solutions
FOR HIGH-TECH PROBLEMS

Each Phono~Phone is handmade by employing wheel-throwing, hand building and slip casting techniques in stoneware clays.
Phono-Phone amplifiers use passive acoustics to reverberate off ridged ceramic surfaces

**BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED...EVER**

substantially increasing the volume, depth and overall sound quality of your smart phone

Drop–Ins, 2016. Altered Slip-cast Porcelain, 6 x 8.5 x 7

$130 each
DESK TOPS

Crawlers, 2016. Altered Slip-cast Porcelain, 6 x 8.5 x 7
$275

Small Desk Shell, 2016. Altered Slip-cast Porcelain, 6.75 x 5 x 7.5
$175
TABLE TOPS

Daffodil I, 2016. Altered Slip-cast Porcelain 16 x 21 x 21
$ 800
glazed surfaces are often applied in multiple layers over the course of several firings
Double: Double, 2016. Altered Slip-cast Porcelain 7 x 16 x 18
$675

Up-Right, 2016. Wheel-thrown stoneware
$950
**iHorn**, 2016. Wheel-thrown stoneware w/ metal stand
13.5 x 13.5 x 22 $1500

**iHorn II**, 2016. Wheel-thrown stoneware, auto paint w/ metal stand $1200
Priceless, 2016. Altered Slip-cast Porcelain w/ Auto Paint 18 x 21 x 20
$ 2200

custom painted surfaces are also available for true audiophiles
INTER~FACED
ON VIEW THIS MAY AT THE HEALDSBURG CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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Clay & Glass 2016

May 26 - July 17

Amend
Blakeley
Doiron Reinhart
Gawne
Geisinger
Kim
Lieb
Roberts
Schrieber-Smith
Studio Bel Vetro
Szösz
Ward
Wilson

Join us for these exhibition events:
May 28
2:00 - 3:00 PM, Artist Talk, free
5:00 - 7:00 PM, Opening Reception, free
June 18
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Tour studios of Gregory Roberts, Bill Geisinger & Studio Bel Vetro, $75 per person (includes transportation and lunch)
July 16
Laces and Coils with Ashley Kim - Session 1: Hand building techniques $10 per session
Session 2: Inlaying and surface embellishments, $10 per session
July 17
2:00 - 4:00 Closing Tea and Salon, free