



# THROUGH MY EYES

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by Juyeon Kim  
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My name is Juyeon Kim and I have a Melbourne-based design studio specialising in individually handcrafted ceramics and sculptures. I trade as Juyeon Ceramics.

Growing up in a small town in South Korea, I loved nature and drawing and was always curious. Art is in my blood – my grandfather was a sculptor and a stonemason, and my father is an architect specialising in traditional Korean wooden houses and woodcraft.

When I started to write this article for *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, I thought to myself, *Why am I still making art?* I spent a lot of my childhood around both my father and grandfather, and their workshops were my playground – I couldn't help but learn from them. My own studio has now become my playground where I can think, observe, and create. Being in an environment where I can do such things has become a very natural part of my daily life, just like a person walking.

When I was younger, I had a great desire to transform the world, but I soon realised that this was impossible, and I began to focus on recreating part or all of the space surrounding me to reflect things through my eyes. Clay is a material that allows me the flexibility to create my thoughts and emotions into a fixed form. Clay is a pure and sincere friend. The working process and the artist's emotions can be felt in the completed work. So, I chose to work with clay, which is what people call a 'ceramic artist'.

1 **Juyeon Kim**, untitled vases  
handbuilt stoneware, tallest h.26.8cm  
2 & 3 **Juyeon Kim**, *Saekdong* vase  
series, handbuilt stoneware, h.30cm  
Photos: Ben Glezer



I reflect my emotions in many ways when I work. Space and mind have no form. I think it would be contradictory to try to express this in one piece. The work is ultimately my own expression and I often hear people say that my work is unique. I think it is impossible to hide myself from an audience; I am visible in my work.

I love things that cannot be expressed in words, like mountains, and sunsets. I quietly look at things around me, such as buildings, and furniture abandoned on the street, and put them into my work with my emotions and feelings. I don't intend to create a certain form, but rather take something that has been neglected and from that, construct a form. I think it's my job to stop the work when it matches the emotion that comes to mind, without making it into a perfect form.

I want to work on this for the rest of my life. I will express my world and my heart through clay, research new methods, and work with great passion.

**[juyeonceramics.com](http://juyeonceramics.com)**

