

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

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The Artist's Eye: Adam Silverman

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Kimbell Art Museum in its iconic Louis I. Kahn building, Los Angeles-based artist Adam Silverman is creating site-specific vessels that will be placed in the Museum's southern interior courtyard during the *Kimbell at 40* exhibition and will be featured in his Artist's Eye gallery talk on Saturday, October 13. One vessel will sit on each of the low, travertine plinths on the sidewalls, with a third on the travertine cube at the west end of the fountain, facing Antoine Bourdelle's sculpture of *Penelope*. The artist says that his ultimate hope is that they will look like Kahn chose them for this space himself.

Silverman's vessels will be made entirely of materials that have been harvested from the area around the Kahn building and from the construction site of the new Renzo Piano building: water from the Kahn fountains, clay from the new site, and wood from trees that were cut down. In using these raw materials, Silverman is striving to make "artifacts that memorialize the moment in time when Louis Kahn and Renzo Piano come face to face in dialogue."

The vessels will relate to the Kimbell in several other ways. They are meant to invoke Patricia Cummings Loud's description of the Kahn building, "at once both old and new, simple and intricate, austere and beautiful," as well as to contribute to Kahn's notion of the Museum being inspired by "Roman greatness" through their invocation of an ancient Pompeian house. Finally, the vessels will celebrate the wealth of the Kimbell's holdings in ancient ceramics. Silverman's vessels will not be historical re-creations; rather, like the building itself, they will be abstractly inspired by the past, but resolutely contemporary.



Silverman's experiments with various combinations of clay from the Kimbell site



The Kimbell's southern interior court, where Silverman's finished vessels will be placed