

Adam Silverman Fires Up Collaborations for Atwater Pottery

BY ERIN MAGNER

Master potter nonpareil Adam Silverman refires up his experimental Atwater Pottery studio.



Untitled, 2014, by Adam Silverman.

Long before the luxury craft movement descended upon every lush lifestyle boutique in town, there was Adam Silverman. In 2002, the Rhode Island School of Design-trained architect and cofounder of street-wear brand X-Large—debuted Atwater Pottery, a studio that allowed him to indulge his passion for the visceral art of ceramics, one that he'd been harboring ever since he was a teenager growing up in New England.

Silverman quickly amassed a cult following for his fiercely textured pots, which seemingly echo the gritty concrete of LA's urban landscape. Since 2008, he's been fabricating them from Heath Ceramics' LA outpost, where he held court as studio director; this month, however, he's opening a separate workshop where he can devote more time to Atwater Pottery projects. In other words, expect to see more one-of-a-kind works like the one pictured, currently for sale at LA's Edward Cella Art + Architecture (\$2,500).

"The pots are records of the process they've been through," says Silverman, whose porous pieces are created via a labor-intensive routine of glazing, firing, grinding, and reglazing, all in an effort to build up coarse layers of color. Each one can take up to six months to create—sometimes more. "Some pots go to shows, come back a year later, and then I do more to them so they change again," says Silverman.

Atwater Pottery's other works include a tableware collaboration with Trois Mec restaurant; projects for interior designers such as Commune and Studio Sofield; a joint exhibition with Japanese botanical designer Kohei Oda (now on view at Venice's Chariots on Fire); and a West Hollywood public art project, which will be installed in a new mixed-use building on Santa Monica Boulevard in 2015. Says Silverman: "If you drew circles of craft, art, and design and overlapped them, that little spot in the middle is where I operate." *Edward Cella Art + Architecture, 6018 Wilshire Blvd., LA, 323-525-0053*