



TRISTAN FITCH

STATEMENT

*Smokestacks*

My studio in Catskill, NY is in a wooded area with pine, oak, and maple trees. I use storm-felled trees for sculpture and fuel for firing ceramics.

This current work “Smokestacks” references architecture and alchemy with pit-fired ceramic cubes stacked on a hand-carved shelf made from local pine. The ceramic cubes are first bisque fired in a kiln then placed in a pit and wood fired with metal oxides and combustible materials like seaweed, banana peels and corn husks. The firing process results in a galaxy of varied colors and patterns on the cubes due to the ash and smoke produced by the burning materials. I try to control some of the marks and patterns on the cubes by attaching the organic materials to the ceramics in such a way that influence the effect but due to the unpredictable nature of the fire and smoke each piece reveals a surprise effect during the process.

- Tristan Fitch, 2025