

About



A Sketch of Mike fishing on Insula Lake

I love drawing from life.

I enjoy doing contour drawing of things I am currently looking at—it could be a flower at Eloise Butler Flower Garden, Actors in a Guthrie play or my family fishing in the Boundary Waters.

This constant drawing keeps me present to the world that I see.

Clay is a material that constantly keeps me in the present moment. Starting with the lump of clay and forming a plate on the potter's wheel required constant attention. This plate off the potter's wheel keeps me present as I alter the shape while observing a live figure in an active pose.

Click on links below for my resume and artist statement.

[mommsen.resume](#)

[mommsen.ArtistStatement](#)

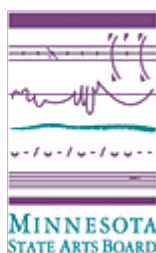
Why Black Maiolica?

Black maiolica combine my interests in line drawing, painting and clay.

The sensitive line quality that I can achieve in black maiolica draws me to this process. Using commercial over-glazes that are close to the color that they will be after they are fired allows for me to constantly work on color relationships. Decorating functional pottery allows me to create objects that people will use daily in their household. I like that the black maiolica can take a story and put it onto something that can be used every day. This gives the story a different meaning. I like that the black maiolica story is not photo realistic rendering, but more of an impression of line and color of the story.

Drawing from Life.

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