

# North Dakota Museum of Art

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**Cyrus Swann** is a multi-media artist who focuses on three-dimensional ceramics, moving from pottery, to sculpture, to installation. According to the artist, "My work explores the depths of form and surface available in the medium but also addresses issues of mass production, consumer waste, and comparative value of one object to the next. I am also interested in pushing my technical ability. I have a commitment to tradition and craft although I don't feel bound by rigid definitions or parameters."

Swann moved back to his hometown, Pine River, after earning his BFA from Bemidji State University. He developed a studio by remodeling the out-buildings on his family farm. All items in the Swann exhibition will be available for purchase and selected work is also available in the Museum Shop.

About this exhibit Swann adds, "The work in is an attempt to unite several separate disciplines I was working in, mainly, functional pottery, drawing, sculpture, and junk installation work. One day I found myself doing a series of dinnerware and vases, then later that day I was out in a farm dump with my buddies drinking beer and looking at garbage. Before bed I sat at my desk drawing images and designs. It all seemed so separate. Then I realized most of the rusted abandoned, junked-out objects I had such an affinity for were containers themselves, with rich, stimulating surfaces. The painting was already done. I started paring the things I found with pots, then through my vocabulary of shapes and surfaces in clay, I started to create specific vessels for specific objects. That was the kicker and it gave me control to unify the separate elements in any way I felt worked. The possibilities are endless, these works are a direction and need further exploration, no doubt you will see me digging in some abandoned dump in the future."