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GALLERY

Gallery | A Ceramics Book, and a Ceramicist, That Break the Mold

DESIGN | BY PILAR VILADAS | SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 3:20 PM

Adam Silverman, the Los Angeles-based potter whose work is the subject of the new monograph, "**Adam Silverman Ceramics**" (Skira Rizzoli, \$60), doesn't fit the crunchy-granola stereotype of the ceramics artist. Although he became interested in pottery as a teenager, he first earned an architecture degree from the Rhode Island School of Design, then ventured into streetwear as the co-founder of the influential clothing line X-Large, before starting **Atwater Pottery** in 2002. (He has also been the studio director of **Heath Ceramics** since 2008.) Silverman's work, which began as a series of simple cups and bowls, has grown — in both size and scope — to include pots shaped like eggs, spheres and torsos. His glazes have become more complex and layered, sometimes giving the impression of peeling away. "I like the randomness, the gambling aspect of it with some pieces," he explained.

Silverman, whose first museum exhibition, "**Clay and Space**," opens on Oct. 27 at the Laguna Art Museum, said he didn't want to do what he called a "typical" ceramics book. "If you're going to the trouble of doing a book, it should look as good or better than the work that's in it." This one reverses the usual art-volume format. Instead of an introduction and essays followed by images of the work, "**Adam Silverman Ceramics**" leads with the work, sometimes showing multiple views of individual pieces, like a spectacular vessel with an abstract cherry blossom motif. There are shots of the pieces' undersides, and even one of a deliberately broken pot, presented as a careful arrangement of shards. Then come photos of Silverman at work in his studio, essays by art and design world experts (including Shepard Fairey and the T contributor **Brooke Hodge**) and a Q. & A. Although he said he has no immediate interest in a follow-up volume, Silverman stresses that the book is not the last word on his work. "It's not a retrospective," he declared. "My career isn't that old."

"Adam Silverman Ceramics" is out Sept. 24 from Skira Rizzoli; \$60.

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