

Curtis M. Kularski: Art Analysis One



For this analysis I visited the Mint Museum of Art. I selected the piece "Pierced (blue)" by Jean Blackburn. Jean Blackburn is an American artist who was born in 1957. The piece itself was constructed in 1997. The piece is ceramics work made from colored porcelain and stoneware slip; it stands about 10 inches tall. The work could be classified as either realistic or abstract, depending upon the opinion of the viewer. I personally see it as an abstract. I interpret the meaning of the piece to be an encouragement to see things not as they are, but to see all of the possibilities. Any vessel had the potential to look as though this one does, but this one doesn't look like all of the others. It is possible to see through this vessel, if it were to have anything in it, it wouldn't be hidden, but would be revealed to anyone who looked at it. The porcelain has a shiny finish that indicated that the vessel has a very smooth texture; even the orifices have been made shiny to appear smooth. The color of the piece is a very light blue, and white. The light blue appears where the visible part of the vessel should be and the white is what "should" be hidden from view. All of the lines of the vessel are curves, which add to the overall smooth appearance. With the amount of holes in the vessel it is but a mere outline of what it once was, it takes up very little physical space, but yet nothing else can fill the space that the vessel leaves empty because of the fact that the vessel lacks physical structure in which to hold any contents. The piece is able to remain standing by itself, so I assume that the piece is physically balanced and has about equal weight all the way around. In this piece the form and content relate to each other very well. In its essence the content is a vessel designed for carrying fluids that can not perform that function because it has holes in it. Unity is achieved in the piece between content and form in a very unusual way. The form almost doesn't matter, except for the basic outline of the vessel, what the vessel "is supposed to be". When this is matched to the content of what does exist it is seen that the piece as a whole exists to reveal the inner as well as the outer beauty of the vessel. The color shows the difference between the realm of inside and outside, the observer no longer sees the vessel as a functional piece, but as a work of art used to reveal more about the piece than would have been revealed had it been left as just a whole vessel. Sometimes in art, less is truly more.