

Vale Craft Gallery

230 West Superior Street, Chicago IL 60654
(312) 337-3525 www.valecraftgallery.com



David Huang

With my metalwork I desire to express the nature and beauty inherent in the material, its plasticity and coloration potentials, as well as an exploration of individuality. To do this, hammering is my primary means of shaping. By stretching, compressing, bending, or just plain texturing the metal through use of the hammer, I am able to create forms that speak both of their earthly origins and the ordering and aesthetics of human consciousness.

The pieces reside in a space between raw ore and perfectly machined human conceptions. The use of chemical and heat patina finishes assist in creating this space in that they allow me some control of the outcome through my selections, but ultimately, it is the individual reactions of the metals that produce the rich surfaces and colors.

Most of my works are conceived from the perspective of the individual. What creates character or personality? How do we relate to the environments in which we exist? I am fascinated by how subtle variances in the swell of form or degree of inward curving on a vessel's rim alter the "personality" of a piece, in turn affecting who relates most strongly with the object.

I am concerned specifically with affecting the environments we exist in on an everyday basis. I feel the spaces in which we live and work strongly influence how we think, feel, and by extension, who we are. Therefore, I am concerned with issues of beauty. I also seek to explore material existence in ways that are other than human. Having the voices of the various media I use be expressed within our daily environments will, I believe, enrich existence.

Brief Process and Care Description for Metal Vessels

I work primarily with a technique called angle raising. To briefly explain the basics of the process, I begin with a flat sheet of metal, usually a disk, and using special hammers, slowly form it over various shaped metal stakes. This hammering makes the metal brittle, so to prevent it from breaking, I must repeatedly anneal it. Annealing is a process of heating and quenching the metal to return it to a soft, malleable state. Once I have the desired form, each piece is completed by soldering on a rim, and finishing the surface with either patina or gilding.

I apply a paste wax to the exterior of each piece. You may wish to occasionally buff this up by rubbing with a soft cloth. Tarnish on the silver rim may be removed using a silver polish cloth. One should take care not to rub the gilded areas. This is a delicate finish, a feather duster or something suitably gentle may be used instead, as needed.