

Dustin Yager

Artist Statement

Imagine opening a cupboard of illustrated pots—full of friends and conversations, romance and trouble. I seek to make this daily interaction in the kitchen somehow surprising, playful, or rebellious.

Through my work I begin to construct a disaffected narrative that disrupts the safe or comfortable environment, alleging a messier reality that is depicted on useful objects. I recall the beautiful and the frustrating aspects of my experience by using images and words from the news media, sexuality, decoration, politics, and everyday life. These interventions shock and provoke with aggressive imagery couched in effete decoration, or fanciful mash-ups of disparate images. I test and play with the boundaries of propriety—that unspoken set of rules describing who can do what, what should be seen or not seen, and under what circumstances—but coyly avoid definite answers.

My work is primarily social, intended to be displayed and used. I approach my work with a sense of flirtatiousness, drawing on historical forms and traditional processes to slyly interrupt the act of using and looking. I combine the lively variety of throwing marks with the precise lines and surfaces of machine-made objects. I select forms that are archetypal in order to emphasize that the values reflected in my pots are variations on the expectations we place in objects all around us. In my studio, I look forward to making art that tell a story of empowerment—with heart and a point of view.