

Associate Professor of Art, Frank A. Pishkur has been at teaching at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Missouri since 2005. Originally from Michigan City, Indiana, he is a graduate of the Honors Program at Indiana State University, where he received his BFA in ceramics. He then went on to earn an MFA in ceramics from The Wichita State University. He is a member of the National Council on Education in the Ceramic Arts (NCECA), the College Art Association (CAA), and the American Craft Council (ACC).

Pishkur's artwork has won several awards and has been featured in over 75 shows throughout the United States, including nineteen solo exhibitions. In 2004 he had a solo exhibition in Seoul, South Korea. He currently works primarily with clay on the potter's wheel, referencing traditional pottery forms and glazes.

According to the artist "This work really represents a simplification of the decorating and the shaping, of my forms. In essence I am trying to reduce my work to fairly simple levels and deliberately limiting my color palate to try to fully understand the limits and advantages of the celadon glaze." Pishkur adds, "...celadon glazes have a long, venerable history in Asia and I think this work is in a lot of ways my way of trying to come to terms with and an attempt to assimilate the visual influences from my stay in Korea."

Mr. Pishkur has served as the Head of the Art Department at Missouri Southern (2008-2009) and again is serving in that position on an interim basis. Previous experiences include a three semester appointment as Visiting Professor of Ceramics at Kyung Hee University in Suwon, South Korea, a semester as a Visiting Artist at Louisiana College, and a year as an adjunct instructor at Indiana University, South Bend. He also has developed adult educational ceramic programs at art centers in both Indiana and Louisiana, spent 5 years teaching art at an elementary school (grades K-8), and has worked as a self-employed professional ceramic tile installer.