



Tile Array (Wall Composite), 26.5 x 15.75 x 0.75 inches, Ceramic, steel, \$2,200.

Martin Schapiro

Artist Bio

Martin Schapiro (b.1986) is an Arkansas-based ceramic artist making objects that respond to new technologies of automation. Martin received a MFA in ceramics from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2026. He has shown work at Old Friends Gallery in Chicago, Illinois; Hatch Gallery in Hamtramck, Michigan; and Watershed PDX in Portland, Oregon. Schapiro is currently adjunct faculty at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Artist Statement

Ceramic is adept at recording touch—a fingerprint, a throwing mark, a tooling line. My work takes advantage of this affordance to explore the impact of new technologies of automation on craft, specifically through 3D ceramic printing. Touch is central. To capture the machine's mark, I design tile forms that record the movement of the print nozzle across the surface of the print bed. I favor a flat arena of action where the nozzle's unpredictable fingerprint comes forward. These surfaces draw out an algorithmic, almost alien aesthetic of automation, and the viewer must grapple with the warmth of clay against the coldness of technology.

Underlying my practice is an unsettled tension: as I continue to collaborate with these tools, I risk enabling the technology to further encroach on human artistic labor. My printer will very likely, one day, replace me. And when I set aside the printer to make objects manually, my work still looks back, over its shoulder, at technology. My Handprint Series mimes the printer's mark-marking in a vain attempt to reclaim ceramic as a human technology. I retreat further into clay's ability to capture my touch and leave behind a footprint in the mud, like a dinosaur.