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# Ceramic Apprenticeship with Professor Eddie Dominguez

Victoria E. Norton
*University of Nebraska - Lincoln,* airotcivn@gmail.com

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# Ceramic Apprenticeship with Professor Eddie Dominguez

By Victoria Norton, Studio Art/Art History Major

## Project Goal

The purpose of this research is to explore specific techniques and processes as employed by Eddie Dominguez through an apprenticeship in ceramic art in which I will be intimately involved in both the critical thinking and process of Professor Dominguez' work. Topics of focus include building upon my skills of testing glazes and clays in order to discover which glaze and clay combinations cater best to the work.  I also plan to investigate idea generation and art concept, an element of Eddie Dominguez's work that is very important. Many other vital studio practices were implemented during the apprenticeship. Skills such as applying to shows, photographing, networking, packaging, and website management. This research is very important for me to learn as an aspiring artist. Applying to shows and networking to get into galleries is a very essential part of being an artist.

## Artist's Work



## Studio Work

In order to assist Professor Dominguez with his studio practice I had to take on many jobs that require a lot of work. For example, I mixed and pugged clay for Professor Dominguez in order to learn his way of making as well as produce clay for the next step in the process.

I also assisted Professor Dominguez in glazing the bisque fired ceramic pieces. This was a process similar to glazing, where the color is added. Many of the works by Dominguez are very intricate and painterly, so this step was taught by the Professor so I could learn to better assist him in this step of the process.

I assisted Professor Dominguez in loading kilns with work, once after a piece is built as well as another firing after the piece has been glazed. The kilns we used for the ceramic items Dominguez made were electric kilns, like the one shown below.



## Real Application

From this assistanceship through UCARE with Professor Eddie Dominguez I have learned many things that I can take and use with me as I grow as an artist. I learned many applicable skills that I would not have had the chance to grow in without this opportunity. I have had the chance to see what it is like to be a studio artist, how to be self motivated, how to apply for shows, how to balance work, life and studio. All of these things are important for me to be subject to since this is what I want out of my future as well. Eddie Dominguez has a great way of making sure every part of life is full of creativity and passion, even when it comes to cooking or gardening. Through being a studio assistant I have been able to take what I have learned and use it to apply to my life as an artist and a student.

## Conclusion

With my time assisting Professor Eddie Dominguez I have had the opportunity to work alongside a very prolific ceramic artist and be able to learn from him and his studio practices. Although this is not a research based UCARE project, having the opportunity to be a studio assistant is a very important part of learning a specific craft or trade. I feel as though I am better equipped to have my own studio after I graduate because I was able to do this assistanceship.

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