

Discussion Questions

Before Viewing:

Introduce the video featuring Ehren Tool. The artist is a Gulf War veteran who makes ceramic cups. Share this quote:

“My wife calls my work ‘war awareness art.’ I’m not so concerned with if you’re for or against a specific war, but that you’re ignorant of what’s happening is not okay with me.”

– Ehren Tool

After Viewing:

1. What does Ehren Tool make?
2. How is Ehren Tool’s art related to scale? Think of the scale of war and the scale of the artworks he makes.
3. Ehren Tool calls his cups “little silly cups”. How is a little cup the opposite of what he calls “confrontational”?
4. The artist has a purpose for his cups. What is it, and how do you imagine it working?
5. Do you think repetition is important in the work of Ehren Tool? Why do you say this? Where do you find repetition in his work?
6. What do you know of our current military involvement in the world? Are we at war now? Where? Do you personally know anyone who is in the military and what their experiences are?

