REGIS C. BRODIE: Artist Statement

My methodology of making art is exploratory in nature. It deals with the direct manipulation of materials and processes. My vessel or sculptural forms are elegant and classical. The surface painting, drawing, and textural treatment on the other hand, is out of the Abstract Expressionist and Post Modernist Schools. I love the interplay that is created between the refinements of the form and the spontaneously decorated surface. It contrasts the elegant with the organic. I am tight and at the same time loose.

In an American Architecture course that I had taken early in my M.F.A. program, I discovered a great architect who had a profound influence on me and on the direction my work was to take. His name was Louis Sullivan (1856-1924), a major Chicago architect whose work dominated the architecture of the last two decades of the 19th century and the first two decades of the 20th century. He made American architecture, American. His architecture was honestly conceived, and the result showed the direct process by which it was constructed. Ornamentation of the architecture was indigenous to the structure. These structures were neither overly ornate nor pretentious.

The ornament was an integral part of the total concept. Louis Sullivan developed new concepts in architecture, both in structural design and ornamentation. He is credited with building the very first skyscraper.

It became very obvious to me that this person was someone I wanted to emulate. Here was a system and a philosophy that would enable me to combine my painting and sculpture skills with and on the ceramic vessel. It was in 1969 that I began the difficult task969a18(it)04mienn9ta18(e)-10(n)-01gk96a18(a)-1
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