

Tides

photo: Mark Preu (preuphoto.com)

I walk the sand flats early morning. Spread out before me is a sand pattern world. Walking on the edge of the continent I follow the furrowed patterns that stretch for miles. I smell the sea air, I hear the sound of breaking waves, I feel the patterned sand under my feet. I've always found solace in big landscapes. I am mostly here to be calm, uninterrupted in the flow of the tides.

On Cape Cod Bay, with its 9 foot tidal surge, the rise and fall of the tides sculpt the sand into furrows that fork, split, reconnect and vary in width and depth building endless variations on a theme. As an artist I ask myself "How can I use this?" I plaster cast these tidal sand patterns and bring the castings back to my studio to freeze the ephemeral.

I incorporate the plaster castings into bowls, vases, flat sided jars, winged figures, monoliths, fountains and sculptures. These works represent an evanescent ripple of the present moment, preserved for all time.

I find the form of the monolith a special revelation. Its majesty exerts a magnetic force drawing me back to the eternal tidal rhythm of the protean ocean.

The sea and sand go about their changes teaching us about the impermanence of all things.

Steven T. Kemp
Owner of Kemp Pottery



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Tides. Stephen T. Kemp. 2015. Stoneware clay reduction fired to 2400° with copper patina glaze

This public art sponsored by the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce and partners allows one to connect with local art, business, and the unique aesthetic of our region. We hope Tides, which expresses the constant inspiration enriching the lives of our artists, will provide inspiration to those experiencing this piece.

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