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## On the Cover: Artist's Statement for B-Phone

Brenda Roveda

*Bridgewater State University*

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## On the Cover

# Artist's Statement for *B-Phone*

BRENDA ROVEDA

**T**his body of work explores the conflicting feelings I have regarding digital communication. While I value and rely on the little powerhouse of a computer I keep within reach for its many abilities and conveniences, I also resent it for its interruptions, distractions, and my growing dependency on it. These contrasting feelings have led me to create historic-type vessels that are decorated in technological motifs to symbolize the contemporary storage vessel, the Cloud.

My investigation draws from the traditions of Ming Dynasty pottery in both form and design. The vessels have bulbous bodies with collared necks and feet. Most have fitted lids, and several are open. In an effort to juxtapose the antiquated forms against contemporary digital semiotics, I incorporate language in the form of binary code and other digital symbols, such as Wi-Fi and cellular bars, in repeat patterns and bands. I began using 0s and 1s symbolically by meticulously stamping the vessels to create a uniform pattern with a variety of blue underglazes, drawing from their cobalt blue predecessors of the Ming Dynasty that popularized blue and white porcelain in the 14th century. Through the course of my investigation, I transitioned into using binary code as an expressive language, translating descriptive words such as “bubble”, “virtual”, “always-on”, and Bridgewater State University

“connected” to name a few, which express my feelings toward digital communication.

Similar to many of us, I deal with digital communication on many different levels. I observe and participate in online communications and social media, both professionally and personally as a useful tool. However, I am concerned with the social shift I perceive such as the effects of screen time with my own children and social-emotional issues with my students due to the effect of constant contact with social groups. I am connected but conflicted, and this work examines these feelings through artistic exploration. I hope the viewer will reflect on their own use of technology and contemplate their personal feelings regarding digital communication and the changing social climate surrounding it.

## Editor's Note

Photographs of Ms. Roveda's ceramic vessels are found throughout this volume of *The Graduate Review*.

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## About the Artist

Brenda Roveda is pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching Creative Arts at Bridgewater State University. This body of work was completed in the fall of 2017 under the guidance of Professor Preston Saunders. Brenda resides in Marion, MA and teaches ceramics at Fairhaven High School. Outside of teaching, Brenda enjoys spending time with family; exploring the outdoors; and playing music with her husband, with whom she has two daughters. She completed her Master's Degree in May of 2018.