

KRISTINA HO

Hidden Depths

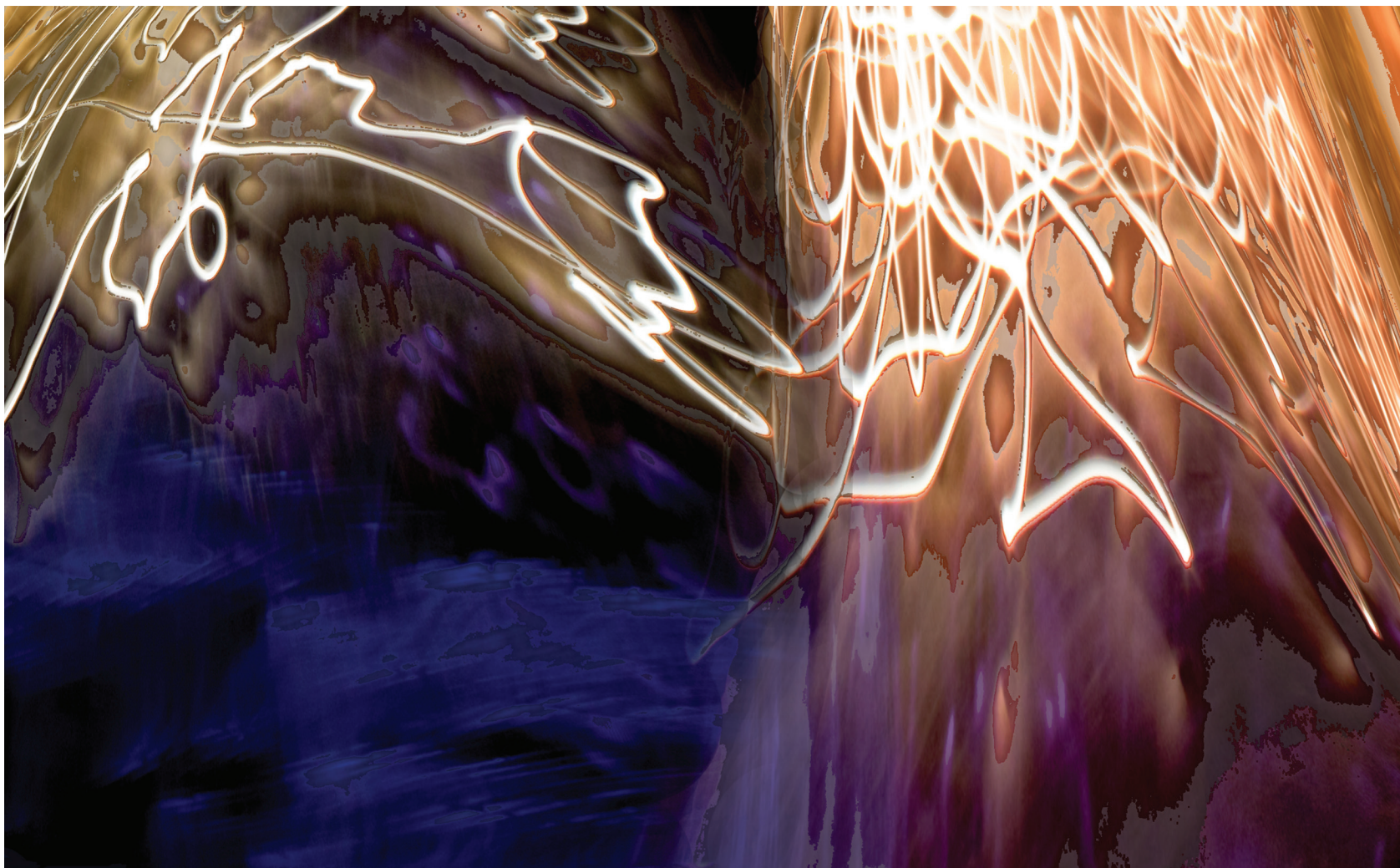
When I was younger, I took Chinese language classes where I memorized and recited nursery rhymes every week. Initially it was fun, however, I could not understand what I was reciting, and eventually I lost interest and stopped going. When I traveled to Taiwan and China in the summer of 2008, I was lost and confused due to my lack of fluency. I was embarrassed—how could I not know my own culture? Although I learned basic phrases and words before traveling, I was not able to communicate and comprehend what was going on around me. English was my first and only fluent language.

I am currently enrolled in basic Chinese courses to learn everything I missed out on studying when I was younger. In the studio, this has led me to explore the formal and cultural meaning of Chinese characters through the rearrangement of words. As I make my work, I reinvent language through calligraphic qualities within and through space forming my own positive and negative shapes.

I begin my studio process by responding to Chinese characters through digital rendering. On Photoshop, I make hybrid compositions of characters. As I place each individual word or fragment in a certain way, the negative spaces create unique polygonal shapes. I then transfer the composition onto a slab of clay and cut it out. The positive spaces produced create a unique branching network of lines.

My digital work is also a response to Chinese calligraphy. Using a camera at night and long exposure, I focus on available light and make “drawings” by moving the camera itself. I then digitally alter each photo to create a specific environment for my calligraphic script to live within.

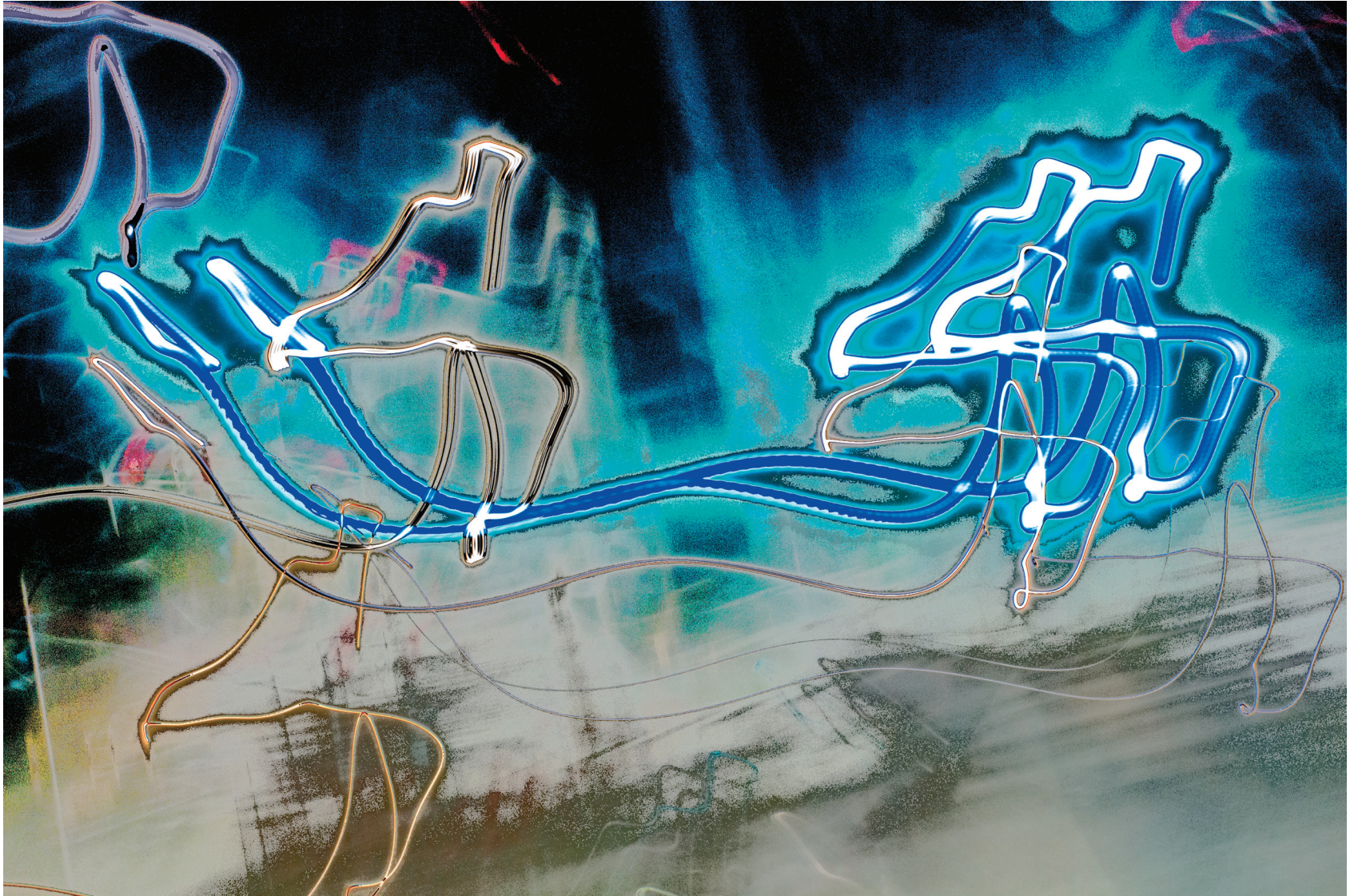
Whether on clay or the computer, I use my Chinese heritage as inspiration to reinvent communication through language, shape and pattern. I am learning the language of Chinese, but the language of space as well, as I participate and intervene. Language inspires me to learn and find new meaning as I create my own dialect.



Optimism and Hope, Digital Inkjet Print on Foam Core, 23" x 38", 2018



Dancing in the Rain, Digital Inkjet Print on Foam Core, 25" x 38", 2018



Doppelgänger, Digital Inkjet Print on Foam Core, 25" x 38", 2018



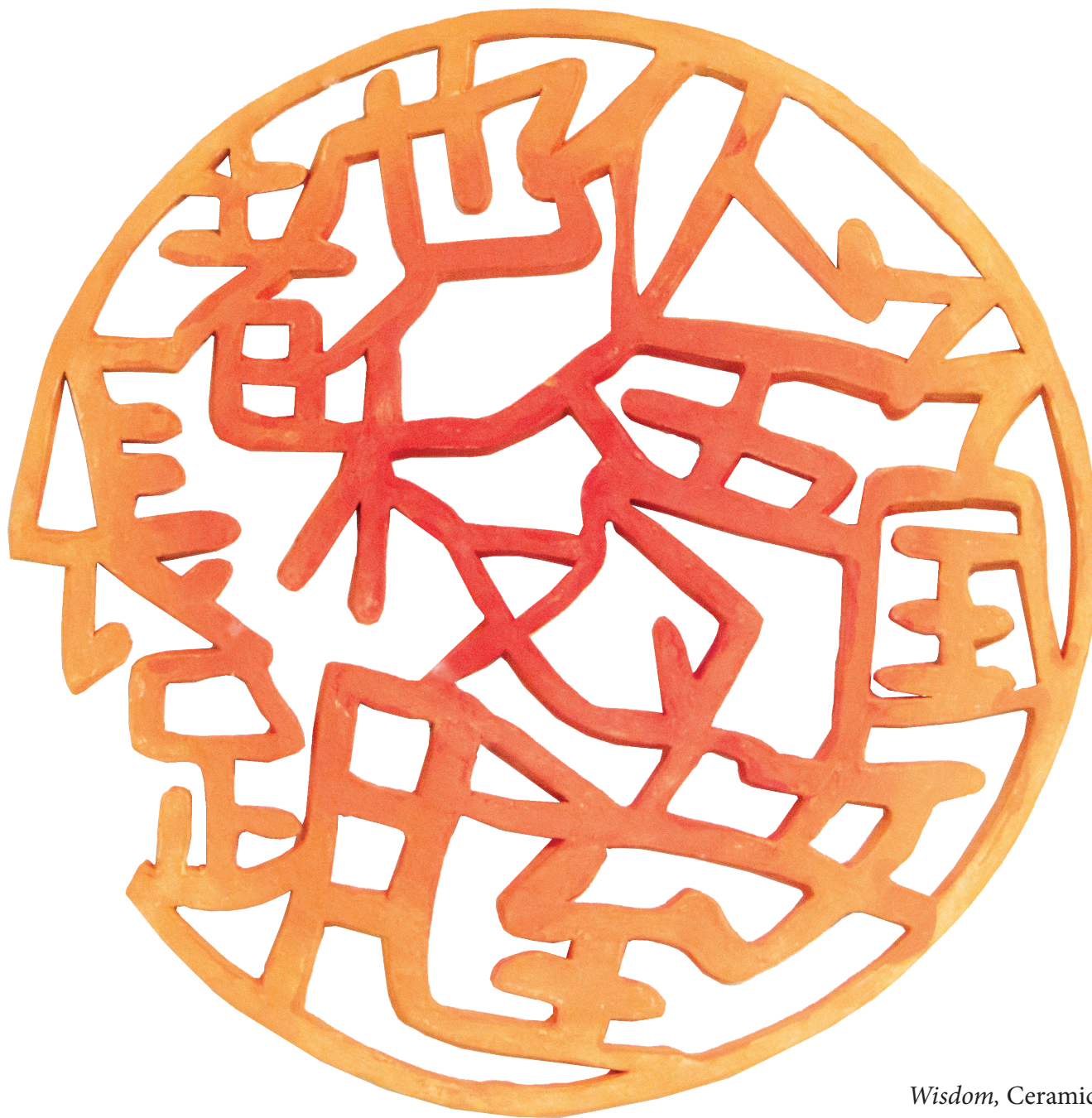
Rush Hour, Digital Inkjet Print on Foam Core, 24" x 36", 2018



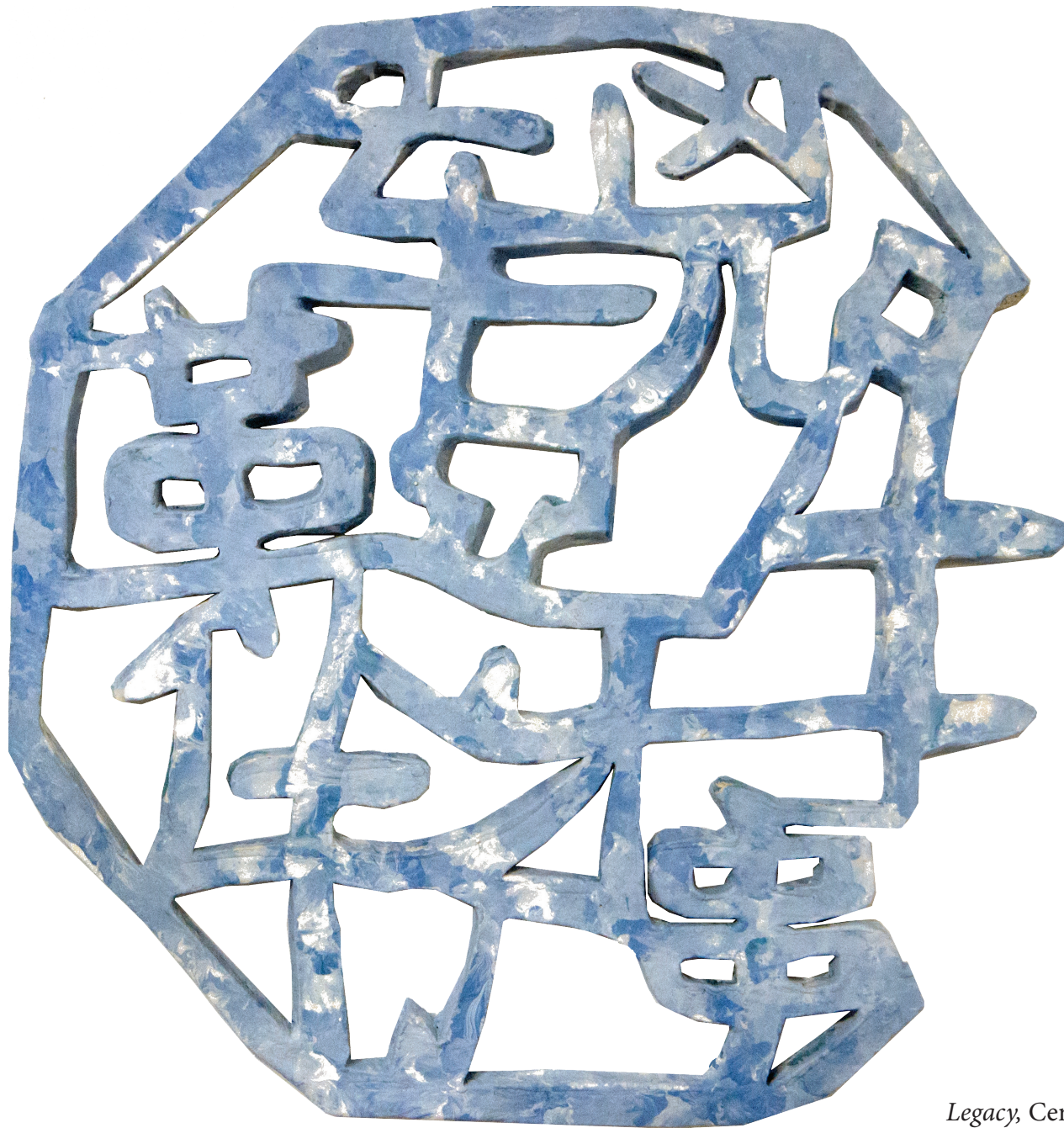
Street Dance, Digital Inkjet Print on Foam Core, 24" x 36", 2018



City Lights, Digital Inkjet Print on Foam Core, 24" x 36", 2018



Wisdom, Ceramics, 20" x 20", 2017



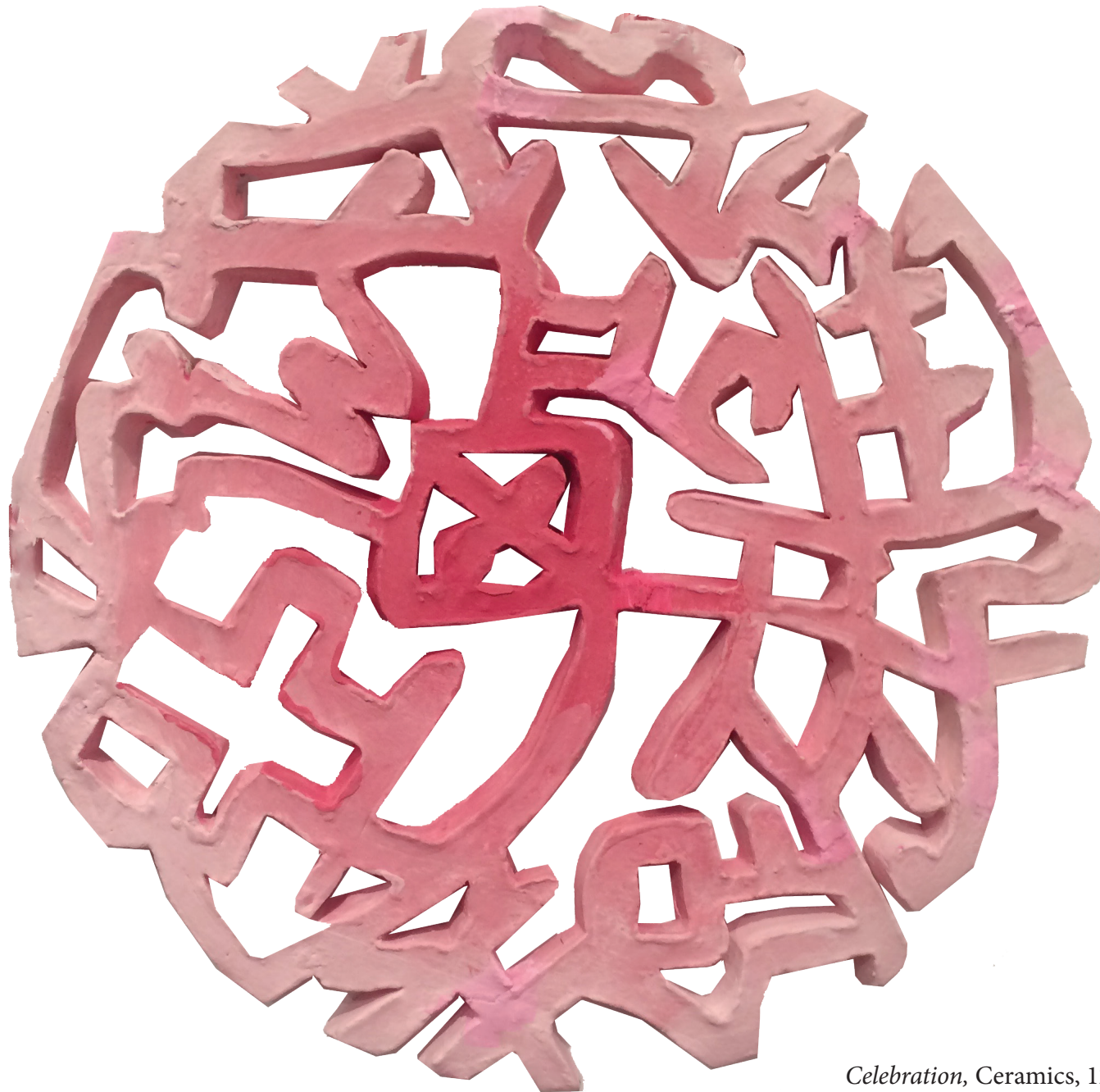
Legacy, Ceramics, 16" x 16", 2017



Immortal, Ceramics, 15" x 16", 2017



Harmony, Ceramics, 16" x 16", 2017



Celebration, Ceramics, 12" x 12", 2018



Cosmos, Ceramics, 16" x 16", 2018