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An understanding of history remains the fundamental starting point on which to base an understanding of the world in which we all live. It is a tenet which plays an increasingly significant part in my own life and is one which seems today more than ever an important foundation in all aspects of our lives.

Many of us, though sadly by no means the overwhelming majority we might imagine, are now fortunate enough to have access to such knowledge whenever and wherever we want it. And though this is clearly of great potential value, there is still an equally essential place for those peer reviewed and specialist periodicals which concentrate knowledge within a particular field. *Vormen uit Vuur* is one such publication, and because of my professional work as artist in the ceramic field is one which is of particular personal interest.

The vast majority of those who are drawn to read the journal will no doubt do so out of an interest from their own professional or academic perspective, or perhaps as an interested nonprofessional scholar. From my own perspective as contemporary artist I am focused predominantly on interpreting my understandings of the world in which we live, and in doing so it is also necessary to weigh these endeavours with historical precedents.

It is therefore of great interest to discover as wide a range of historical contexts regarding the material as possible. And speaking as one



who came many years ago to the Netherlands to base his career here it is also particularly interesting to discover the history of both ceramics and glass from a Dutch perspective.

Expanding the breadth of viewpoints published within *Vormen uit Vuur*, particularly regarding contemporary practice, as well as the scope of its readership would seem an exciting goal for the coming years.