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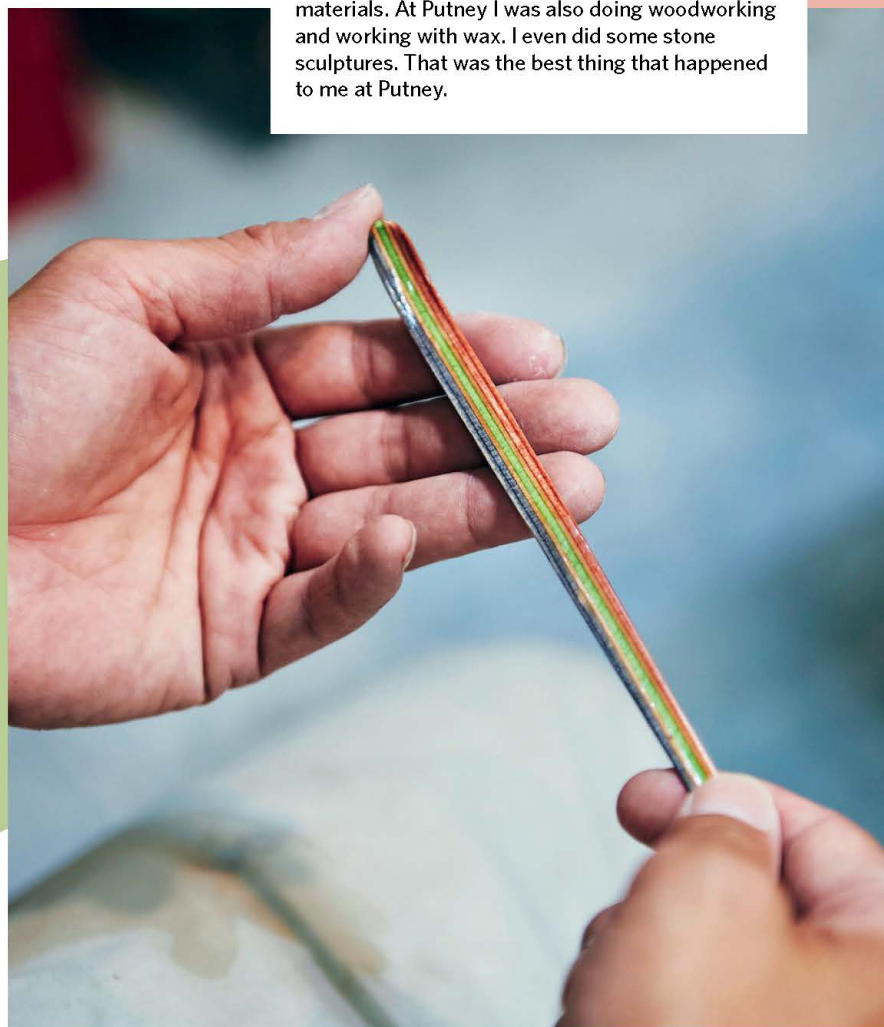
**THIS IS A TOOL TO SCOOP** the tea powder for a tea ceremony. I made it out of a skateboard.

I actually bought my first skateboard when I was at Putney. I learned many of my first tricks at Putney too. I thought it would be interesting to put these two elements together—the tea ceremony and skateboarding.

This isn't ceramics, but a different medium. I am part of a group called The Tea Room, which produces art tea ceremonies.

To be creative, first you have to like it. You have to have some kind of passion for it, and you have to have some kind of dream. My dream is to create something new every day.

Putney introduced me to ceramics. But Putney also showed me that I can work in different materials. At Putney I was also doing woodworking and working with wax. I even did some stone sculptures. That was the best thing that happened to me at Putney.



## **TWELVE YEARS AGO MY FIRST DAUGHTER WAS BORN.**

However, while she was in her mother's womb, there was a little problem. The doctor didn't know exactly what the problem was, but the water in the womb was more than it should be, so doctors thought there might be some problem with the baby. She was about eight months pregnant. In those final months, every day I was thinking of many things. And I was really scared—was she going to be OK, was she going to be alive? Is she going to be healthy? I didn't know what to do about it, and I was scared. After she was born, the next day she had surgery on her intestinal tract. She was fine.

After that, I started thinking about that experience, and I felt like that was very similar to looking at a ghost. It's kind of covered by a veil, the baby is covered with mother's skin, and it's very mysterious. You don't know what's inside and what it's going to look like, and it's very scary. I thought an unborn baby was like a ghost.

I've been making them ever since, using different shapes and materials. This one is made of cloth that is soaked in liquid clay before firing. The cloth burns off in the kiln.

My job is to push what ceramics is. I don't want to be making what someone has already made. To me, that's not interesting.

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