

## **Lynn Smiser Bowers**

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816-561-1755

*Lynnsmiserbowers.com*

### **Education**

1975 B.F.A. in Ceramics, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, Missouri

1972 B.S. in Art Education, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

1971 National University of Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico

### **Professional Experience**

1976- 2008 Studio Potter, Kansas City, Missouri

2008- Studio Potter, Madison, Mississippi

### **Selected Solo or 2 Person Exhibitions**

2008 **Exhibition**, Terra Incognito Gallery, Oak Park, Illinois

2007 **Aspects of Nature**, The Signature Shop and Gallery

2004 **Objects for the Home and Table**, Akar, Iowa City, Iowa

**Porcelain**, Margo's Pottery and Fine Craft, Buffalo, Wyoming

**Recent Work**, The Signature Shop and Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia

2000 **Porcelain**, Margo's Pottery and Fine Crafts, Buffalo, Wyoming

1998 **Out of Kansas City**, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Art Sales and Rental Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1997 **Porcelain Pottery**, Bluestem Missouri Crafts, Columbia, Missouri

1996 **The Secret Life of Pots**, Northstar/Anderson Gallery, Wilson, North Carolina

**Recent Work**, Linda Howell Gallery, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

1984 **Recent Work**, Mugg Art Gallery, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Porcelain Pottery**, Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

1979 **New Work**, Oklahoma Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2010 **Yunomi Invitational**, Akar, Iowa City, Iowa

**Urban/Suburban Invitational**, Epsten Gallery at Village Shalom, Overland Park, Kansas

**La Mesa**, Invitational, NCECA, Santa Fe Clay, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Small Favors V**, Invitational, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Pictures on Pots**, Invitation, NCECA South Jersey Shore Clay Tour, Long Beach Island Foundation, Loveladies, New Jersey

**Shino Redux 2010**, Invitational, Clay Art Center, Port Chester, New York

2009 **Urban/Suburban Invitational**, Epsten Gallery at Village Shalom, Overland Park, Kansas

**"The World Cup"** Invitational, Galerie Frank Steyaert, Ghent, Belgium

**La Mesa**, Invitational, NCECA, Santa Fe Clay, Phoenix, Arizona

**Beyond Bounds - Glow**, Invitational, Norman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, Kansas

**Paper or Pottery**, Invitational, Ferrin Gallery, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

**Pouring Pots**, Invitational, Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, New Mexico

**Spoon It! Fork It! Cut It Up!** Curated by Gail Brown, Baltimore Clayworks Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland

**Small Favors IV**, Invitational, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**"The Art of Tea"** Invitational, Visual Arts, Rockville, Maryland

**"Teapot: Interpretation-Studio Pottery"** Ferrin Gallery, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

2008 **Yunomi Invitational**, Akar, Iowa City, Iowa

**Another Cup?** Invitational, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, Maryland

**La Mesa**, Invitational, NCECA, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

- “Pouring Vessels” Invitational, Macon Arts, Macon, Georgia  
 “Cup” Invitational, Red Star Studios, Kansas City, Missouri
- 2007 **“Metamorphosis & Rebirth- The 2nd 2007 China Jingdezhen International Contemporary Ceramics Exhibition”**, Traveling Invitational, China Ceramic Museum, Jingdezhen, China  
**La Mesa**, Invitational, Santa Fe Clay, New Mexico  
**A Bird in the Hand**”, Invitational, Red Star Studios, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Urban/Suburban**, Invitational, Epsten Gallery at Village Shalom, Overland Park, Kansas  
**For the Birds**, Invitational, Red Star Studios, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Salt and Pepper Invitational**, Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
**Plates and Platters:Salon Style**, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
**La Mesa**, National Invitational Dinnerware Exhibition, NCECA, Louisville, Kentucky  
**Tea Invitational**, Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
**Yunomi Invitational**, Akar, Iowa City, Iowa  
**“30 x 5 Invitational”**, Akar, Iowa City, Iowa  
**Plates and Platters**, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, Michigan
- 2006 **Teapot: Form, Function and Metaphor**, CAS Gallery, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida  
**La Mesa**, National Invitational Dinnerware Exhibition, NCECA, Portland, Oregon  
**Divergence: 4 High Fire Potters**, Red Star Studios, Kansas City, Missouri  
**30x5 Invitational**, Akar, Iowa City, Iowa  
**Tea Bowl Invitational**, Curated by Diane Mead, Hardman Hall Gallery, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia
- 2005 **Function as Art**, JRB at the Elms, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
**Artist of the Month**, The Signature Shop and Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
**Plates and Platters:A Blue Plate Special**, Curated by Gail M. Brown, Chester Springs Studio Center for the Visual Arts, Chester Springs Pennsylvania  
**Endless Variations:Shino Review 2005**, International Invitational, Curated by Malcolm Davis, Baltimore Clayworks Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland  
**La Mesa**, National Invitational Dinnerware Exhibition, NCECA, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2004 **For the Table**, National Invitational, Santa Fe Clay Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
**Tea**, National Invitational, Santa Fe Clay Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
**Bowl**, National Invitational, Red Star Studios, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Art to Use**, National Invitational, Thirteen Moons Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
**Works by Artists in Residence at the International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemet, Hungary**, Kansas City Artists Coalition, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Cup**, National Invitational, New Gallery, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida  
**The Loving Cup**, Invitational, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2003 **Functional Ceramics 2003**, Invitational exhibition, Wayne Center for the Arts, Wooster, Ohio  
**Mastery in Clay**, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
**Hundreds of Cups**, Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
**Dessertworks ’03**, Ronald L. Barr Gallery, Indiana University SE, New Albany, Indiana  
**Holiday Invitational**, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2002 **Regarding Clay: NCECA Endowment Exhibition and Auction Invitational**, Belger Art Center, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Porcelain: Another Touch**, Invitational exhibition, curated by Susan Filley, Redstar Studios, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Platter Invitational**, Redstar Studios, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Pots Presented**, curated by Nick Joerling, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, Maryland  
**Surface Tension: The Art of Shino**, curated by Malcolm Davis, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
**For the Table National Invitational Dinnerware Exhibition**, Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
**Shine Invitational Benefit**, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kansas

- 2001 **Plate and Platter Invitational 2001**, Lill Street Gallery, Chicago, Illinois  
**6x6, A Show of Sets**, Invitational group show, NCECA 2001, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina  
**Tantalizing Teapots Invitational**, Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston, Virginia  
**For the House and Garden Invitational**, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, Michigan
- 2000 **Earthy Delights: Clay Beyond Tradition**, Iowa State University Gallery, Ames, Iowa  
**DinnerWork 2000**, Louisville Visual Art Association, Louisville, Kentucky  
**Beyond Bound 5: Off the Record!** Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kansas  
**The Millennium Platter Exhibition**, The Ceramic Art Gallery, Sydney, Australia  
**Cups, Cupboards and Cabinets**, The Signature Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
**Made in Missouri**, Craft Alliance, St. Louis, Missouri  
**Plates and Platters Salon Style**, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, Michigan  
**Beautiful Use: A National Pottery**, Montgomery College Art Gallery, Rockville, Maryland  
**Winterfest 2000 National**, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, Maryland  
**Soup Tureen Invitational**, Indiana University SE, Barry Gallery, New Albany, Indiana
- 1999 **The Art of Pouring**, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
**Teapot Invitational**, Miller Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio  
**A Celebration of Artists**, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Beyond Bounds—Beyond Borders**, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kansas
- 1998 **Invitational Mug Show**, Vermont Clay Studio, Montpelier, Vermont  
**Pewabic Garden Show**, Invitational, Pewabic Gallery, Detroit, Michigan
- 1997 **Topeka Competition 21**, Topeka Public Library, Topeka, Kansas  
**Strictly Functional Pottery National**, Market House Craft Center, Ephrata, Pennsylvania  
**Wild Woman Salon**, Morgan Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Frida Kahlo: Modern Portraits of a Modern Icon**, Fraser Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 1996 **Madcap Teapot Invitational**, Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.  
**National Teapot Show III**, Cedar Creek Gallery, Creedmoor, North Carolina  
**Beyond Bounds III**, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kansas
- 1995 **Invitational Group Show**, Pewabic Gallery, Detroit, Michigan
- 1994 **Philadelphia Craft Show**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
**Mad Hatter Teapot Show**, Ferrin Gallery, Northampton, Massachusetts  
**Second Annual Strictly Functional Pottery National**, Market House Craft Center, Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
**Fifth Annual Invitational Teapot Show**, Gallery Alexander, La Jolla, California
- 1994 **Beyond Bounds II**: Invitational, Johnson County Community College Gallery of Art, Overland Park, Kansas  
**Third Annual Invitational Show of Cups**, Artworks Gallery, Seattle, Washington  
**A.C.E. Show**, Baltimore, Maryland
- 1993 **Eleven Studio Potters**, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
**Pitchers at an Exhibition**, Year of the American Craft, Topeka, Kansas  
**State Street Art Fair**, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
**Pouring Forth Invitational**, Worlds Window Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Invitational Group Show**, Pewabic Gallery, Detroit, Michigan
- 1992 **Canvas & Clay**, Two Person Show, Wyandotte County Library, Kansas City, Kansas  
**Beyond Bounds**, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kansas  
**Invitational Group Show**, Pewabic Gallery, Detroit, Michigan

- 1991 **Competition 16**, Topeka Library Gallery, Topeka, Kansas  
**Lakefront Festival of the Arts**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
**Homecoming '91 Invitational**, Artsplace Gallery, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
**Invitational Group Show**, Pewabic Gallery, Detroit, Michigan
- 1988 **Group Show**, Craft Alliance, St. Louis, Missouri  
**Artful Living**, Kansas City Arty Institute, Kemper Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Ten In Clay**, Artsplace Gallery, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- 1985 **Soups On Invitational**, Philbrook Art Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma  
**Chocolate Show Invitational**, The Firehouse Art Center, Norman, Oklahoma  
**Functional Pottery Invitational**, Thiel College, Sampson Art Gallery, Pennsylvania
- 1984 **Vases, Platters and Slabs**, Invitational Show, Seastar Gallery, Bigfork, Montana

### Awards/Grants

- 2003 Recipient of the **Lighton International Artist Exchange Program**, six week residency at the International Ceramic Studio, Kecskemet, Hungary
- 2000 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, **Most Creative Dinnerware**, Dinnerworks 2000, Louisville Visual Art Association, Louisville, Kentucky  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place, **Favorite Dinnerware**, Dinnerworks 2000, Louisville Visual Art Association, Louisville, Kentucky
- 1997 Orton Firing Institute Award, **Strictly Functional Pottery National**, Market House Craft Center, Ephrata, Pennsylvania
- 1995 Second Place, **Plaza Art Fair**, Kansas City, Missouri
- 1994 Honorable Mention in Clay, **Second Annual Strictly Functional Pottery National Exhibit**, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- 1992 Alumni Award for outstanding achievement in vocational endeavors, Casady School  
Friends of the Library Purchase Award, **Topeka Competition 16**, Topeka, Kansas
- 1990 First Place in Clay, **Hidden Glen Show**, Olathe, Kansas
- 1982 First Place in Ceramics, **Delta Art Show**, Kansas City, Missouri  
Purchase Award, **Topeka Craft Exhibition**, Topeka, Kansas
- 1979 Purchase Award, Oklahoma Designer Craftsman Show, Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

### Juror Experience

- 2010 Juror, **Renaissance Art Show**, Ridgeland, Mississippi
- 2009 Juror, **Brookside Art Fair**, Kansas City, Missouri
- 2007 Juror, **Midland Arts Association Fall Show**, Midland, Texas
- 2005 Juror, **Western Missouri Regional Scholastic Art Awards**, Shawnee Mission, Kansas
- 2004 Juror, **Western Missouri Regional Scholastic Art Awards**, Shawnee Mission, Kansas  
Juror, **Brookside Art Fair**, Kansas City, Missouri
- 2003 Juror, **Western Missouri Regional High School Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition**, Kansas City, Missouri
- 2002 Juror, **Brookside Art Fair**, Kansas City, Missouri
- 2001 Juror, **Prairie Village Art Fair**, Prairie Village, Kansas
- 1999 Juror, **Brookside Art Fair**, Kansas City, Missouri
- 1998 Juror, **Art of the Mask**, Mattie Rhodes Art Center, Kansas City, Missouri
- 1996 Peer Juror, **Plaza Art Fair**, Kansas City, Missouri
- 1995 Juror, **Student Show**, Paseo Arts High School, Kansas City, Missouri
- 1993 Juror, **Student Show**, Paseo Arts High School, Kansas City, Missouri  
Juror, **Prairie Village Art Fair**, Prairie Village, Kansas
- 1992 Juror, **American Royal Art Fair**, Kansas City, Missouri
- 1991 Juror, **Prairie Village Art Fair**, Prairie Village, Kansas
- 1988 Juror, **Kansas City High School Scholastic Art Competition**, Kansas City, Missouri

## **Publications**

- Pasatiempo, The New Mexican Magazine***, July 24-30, 2009, Santa Fe Clay lecture series, color photograph, page 88
- Ceramics Monthly***, September 2008, Upfront Section, "Terra Incognita Exhibition", page 22, article and color photograph.
- Midland Reporter-Telegram, 2007, article and color photographs, Surface Design for Ceramics***, published by Lark Books, Asheville, North Carolina, 2008
- 500 Tiles***, published by Lark Books, Asheville, North Carolina, 2007, color photographs, pages 22 and 286.
- Nichols Hill News***, March 2008, "Vessels of Beauty and Purpose", article and color photographs, page 94-97.
- International Contemporary Ceramics Exhibition 2007, Jingdezhen, China, Catalog, color photograph, page 145.***
- Review***, September 2006, "Divergence: 4 High Fire Potters" article and color photograph, page 27
- Ceramics Monthly***, October 2006, Upfront Section, "Divergence: 4 High Fire Potters", page 26, color photograph page 6.
- Kansas City Star***, "First Friday's" article, August 31, 2006, Preview, page 33, color photograph of "Porcelain Jar."
- 500 Pitchers***, published by Lark Books, Asheville, North Carolina, 2004, color photograph, pg. 104
- Making and Installing Handmade Tiles, Angelica Pozo***, published by Lark Books, Asheville, North Carolina, 2005, color photographs pg. 31 & 80.
- Making Marks***, Robin Hopper, Krause Publications, Iola, Wisconsin, 2004, color photograph.
- 500 Cups***, published by Lark Books, Asheville, North Carolina, 2004 color photograph, pg. 255
- Ceramics Monthly***, June/July/August 2004, Upfront Section, pg. 26
- American Craft***, June/July 2004, Gallery Section, color photograph, pg. 66
- Review***, February 2004, "International Artist Exchange Program Launched" article, page 42 and 43.
- Review***, October 2003, "To Use or Not to Use" article, page 54 and 55.
- 500 Bowls***, published by Lark Books, Asheville, North Carolina, 2003, color photograph, pg. 185
- Claytimes***, Vol. 8, No. 4, July/August 2002, "Kansas City's Star-Quality Exhibits" article, page 17-19, color photograph page 19.
- Ceramics Monthly***, March 2002, "Riffs, Rhythm, Regeneration" article, color photograph page 115.
- 500 Teapots***, published by Lark Books, Asheville, North Carolina, 2002, color photographs pages 45, 53 and 398.
- The Art of Contemporary American Pottery***, Kevin A. Hluch, Krause Publications, Iola, Wisconsin, 2002, color photographs pages 86, 106 and 131.
- Ceramics Art and Perception 2000***, Issue 40, color photograph of "Celebrating 2000 and the Potter," page 40.
- Kansas City Star***, "Off the Record Exhibition" article, October 17 2000, Section E, FYI, page E1 and 2, color photograph of "Cup and Saucers."
- Kansas City Home Design***, "Mardi Gras Roanoke Style" article, March 2001, Page 91, color photograph of place setting.
- Ceramic Monthly***, March 2001, page 24 color photograph and show review.
- Holiday brochure***, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri, 1998
- The Ceramic Design Book***, Published by Lark Books, Asheville, North Carolina, 1998, color photograph of "Tiny Teapot," page 23
- The Best of Pottery Volume II***, published by Quarry Books, Rockport, Illinois, 1998, color photograph, page 85 Vol. II
- Ceramics Monthly***, "A Working History" by Lynn Smiser Bowers, February 1998, page 48-52
- Ceramics Monthly***, annual promotional poster featuring "Fishbone Platter," 1998
- Kansas City Star***, Clay Guild article, FYI section, December 4, 1998, color photograph of "Pots on a Pot" page F3, Exhibit Catalog for "Strictly Functional Pottery National," 1997, page 7
- Intelligencer Journal***, Happenings Section, May 9, 1997, color photograph of teapot, page 8
- Home Magazine***, "Brewhaha," April 1997, photograph on page 118
- Ceramics Monthly***, April 1997, photograph on page 18

*The Best of Pottery*, published by Rockport Publishers Inc., 1996, color photograph of “Fishbone Platter” on page 77

Exhibition catalog for “A Madcap Teapot Party” show, Renwick Gallery, 1996, page 5

*Artist’s Catalog*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, October 1995, page 3

*Home Magazine*, “Sud Savers,” October 1995, page 140

*Above and Beyond Parsley*, The Junior League of Kansas City Missouri Cookbook, 1992, color photograph

*Ceramics Monthly*, December 1982, page 73

*Studio Potter*, Vol. II, No. 2, Article on Missouri Valley Potters, page 66

### **Permanent Collections**

Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kansas (2006)

Oklahoma Museum of Art, Norman, Oklahoma

Topeka Public Library, Topeka, Kansas

Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kansas (2003)

Casady School Library, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemet, Hungary

Museum of Ceramic Art, Ghent, Belgium

Frank Steyaert, Ghent, Belgium

Ken Ferguson Teaching Collection

### **Galleries**

The Signature Shop and Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia

Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Pewabic Gallery, Detroit, Michigan

Nancy Margolis Gallery, Portland, Maine and New York, New York

John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Art Sales and Rental Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Sales Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri

Lill Street Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

The Works Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Leslie Ferrin Gallery, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

### **Lectures/Workshops**

Workshop, “Glaze Workshop”, The Pottery Studio, Orlando, Florida, 2010

Workshop, “Add Some Zing to Your Glazing”, Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2009

Workshop, “Lynn Smiser Bowers”, Terra Incognito Studios, Oak Park, Illinois, 2008

Workshop, “Embellishing Form and Surface”, 7 Day Hands-On, Red Star Studios, Kansas City, Missouri, 2008

Workshop, “Embellishing Form and Surface”, Midland College, Midland, Texas, 2007

Slide Lecture - Epsten Gallery, Shalom Village, Overland Park, Kansas, 2007

Workshop, “Embellishing Form and Surface”, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, Arkansas, 2007

Workshop, “Strength in Numbers:Pottery Making in Sets”, 2 Weeks Hands- On, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, Colorado, 2005

NCECA Pre-Conference Workshop, “Endless Variations:Functional Four on the Floor”, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, Maryland, 2005

Workshop, “Surface Design”, Red Star Studio, Kansas City, Missouri, 2004

Slide Lecture - Hungarian Experience, Kansas City Artists Coalition, Kansas City, Missouri, 2003

Slide Lecture - International Ceramic Studio, Kecskemet, Hungary, 2003

Visiting Artist Lecture Series, Kansas State University, April, 2003

“Layering: Stencils, Wax, Oxides and More” workshop, Carbondale Clay Center, June 2003, Carbondale, Colorado

Slide Lecture - Margo’s Gallery, Buffalo, Wyoming 2000

Workshop - Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 2000

Workshop - Laguna Clay, Denver, Colorado 2000

National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts Conference, Moderator for panel discussion: "More is Better," Columbus, Ohio 1999

**Curatorial Experience**

"Cups" Red Star Studios, 2008, Kansas City, Missouri

"Sensuous," Red Star Studios, 2003, Kansas City, Missouri

"Contemporary Studio Ceramics," Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Sales Gallery, 2002, Kansas City, Missouri

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#### STATEMENT

My personal style continues to evolve because of the versatile nature of clay. This malleable substance seems capable of endless possibilities, so exploring its many gifts keeps me motivated in the studio. Maintaining the ancient tradition of making useful pots for a society feeds the pragmatic side of my personality. The knowledge that my vessels have purpose and these past traditions are carried forward reinforces my belief that making pots is a great way to spend the day.



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### Artist Statement

For thirty years, I have been a professional potter exploring my art and craft. Both of these aspects come together to form the life of my work.

In combining traditional and contemporary methods and influences, I have discovered paths that lead me into new and exciting areas. One traditional method I employ is the use of the potter's wheel--a tool used by potters down through the centuries. Much of my work begins on the wheel for their initial form. When the vessels leave the potter's wheel, they are just beginning to take shape and develop structure. I begin to add more energy and movement by pulling, pushing, carving, poking, trimming, and altering the pots in many ways to enhance and provide vitality to the form.

Over the years I have worked with many different clays from red earthenware to high fire stoneware. Today, I use a pure, high fire porcelain clay, as it allows for a white background to act as a canvas for my glaze designs. Seduced by this silky, malleable substance as it spins beneath my hands, it has a special quality not found in any other clay.

Inspiration for my surfaces is eclectic and varied. My recent work reflects influences from the textile world. African Asafo Flags, 18<sup>th</sup> century Japanese ikat kimonos and old pictorial Navajo weavings contain patterns and images that intrigue me.

Since pottery is an ancient art form, I also look to the pots of yesterday for information. Lately, I've been studying the figurative scenes taken from daily life as depicted on early (B.C.) Greek vessels. They are compelling for they give us snapshots and stories from a moment in time. These artistic footprints provide a path for me to follow, allowing past traditions to be carried forward, and new ideas are created from a mingling and blending of old expressions.

As I reflect on this progression as an artist, I have always been motivated by experimentation, while always considering the functional aspect of my work important. I know many of my pieces will be used, so pitchers must pour well, teapots must lift with ease, cup handles must feel smooth and comfortable to the touch. I would describe myself as a functional potter who loves to embellish form and surface. I have discovered using repetition of the same form facilitates new ideas. You might compare it to an old Eastern view of life, as seen in Tai Chi (a repetition of sixty-four movements) that out of the repetition of the same form comes new form. The usefulness of my work is a touchstone from which new pots spring and reinforces my belief that making pots is a great way to spend the day.