



## Artist Statement

My work grows out of the blended traditions of functional pottery from England and Japan. I make pots that are meant to be used and not set up on a shelf. I strive to engage the user and all of his or her senses. The weight of a bowl in someone's hands or the texture of a cup's edge on the drinker's lips creates a dialogue between the maker and user.

Working within the constraints of utilitarian ware, creates challenges, but it also allows a level of intimacy and connection between artist and owner that is not present in most other media. However, to be effective, what is being communicated must have depth and strength. I strive to make pots that convey more than just the ability to function. A Styrofoam cup can hold coffee as can any mass-produced commercial mug. My pots need to work, but just being functional or "hand-made" is not enough. To be successful, they need to explore the visual and textural landscape of sculpture and of nature.

My focus is on form. I use the potter's wheel but then alter the shape on the wheel to break up the original lines. My pots are influenced by the shapes I encounter in the natural world—the shape of a seed pod, a crevice in a rock, or bones protruding against skin. I work in series, exploring related ideas across a variety of functional forms. An idea first developed in a tea bowl may then evolve and be explored in a cup, tumbler, or jar. I explore how a curve can invoke sensuality or create distance. How a

trimmed foot can give a pot a sense of stability or capture chaos. In making pots these are choices I make as I try to express fundamental feelings. When my pots are most successful, they connect with the user at a gut level, directly and with honesty. They are not contrived or intellectualized.

I wood fire to preserve the freshness and life of the clay and to document the firing process on the skin of the pot. The process of wood firing to 2,400° Fahrenheit takes more than 20 hours and requires many hands. Firing is a collaborative act with fellow potters and with the environment. The quality of the wood, whether it is raining or not, or the amount of wind all impact the firing and ultimately the resulting pots. The 30-foot flames from the firebox roll through the chamber of the kiln. Where a pot is placed in the kiln affects how much ash is deposited on the pot and whether the iron blush—called flashing—is brought to the surface of the bare clay. I use a quiet palette of glazes that complement the ash and flashing marks of the fire, and I leave large portions of the pot unglazed so that the passage of the flame and placement in the kiln is permanently recorded on the skin of the pot. I want the user to experience the pot both as I saw it on the wheel and during its birth in the fire.

**All of my work is dishwasher and microwave safe**

## **Ceramic Background**

- University of Colorado, Boulder (1977-1981), Studio art courses (David Floria, Wayne Branum)
- Penland School of Crafts, Penland, North Carolina (1989, 1991, & 1992; Jeff Oestreich, Clary Illian, & Randy Johnston)
- Arrowmont School of Arts and Craft, Gatlinburg, Tennessee (1996, Pete Pinnell)
- Hood College, Frederick, MD (2017, Kevin Crowe)

## **Curator**

- "Eat, Drink, and Be Merry," (September 1-30, 2018). Del Ray Artisans Gallery, Alexandria VA. National juried (Lisa York, juror) ceramic show and regional non-ceramic show.
- "Fire and Earth," (September 2-October 2, 2016). Del Ray Artisans Gallery, Alexandria, VA. National juried (Dan Finnegan, juror) cup show and regional non-ceramic show.

# Recent Juried National/International Exhibitions

2021

## **Creative Crafts Council Biennial**

Jurors: Blair Meerfield, Nancy Weisser, & Andrea Uravitch  
Strathmore, Rockville, MD

## **Inspired by Malcolm: A Passion for Shino**

Juror: Matt Hyleck  
Sandy Springs Museum, Sandy Springs, MD

2020

## **Kansas City Clay Guild Teabowl National**

Juror: Sam Chung  
Centered Earth Gallery, Kansas City, MO

## **28th Annual Strictly Functional Clay National**

Juror: Julia Galloway  
Market House Craft Center, Lancaster, PA

## **Micro-Galleries: Small Sculpture Invitational**

Invited Artist  
Workhouse Ceramics  
Lorton Workhouse Art center, Lorton, VA

2019

## **You've Been Served: Cup Show 2019**

Clay Arts Vegas & University of North Dakota  
Urban Forage Winery and Cidar House, Minneapolis, MN

## **Mugshots2: 2nd International Biennial Juried Ceramic Coffee Mug Competition and Exhibition**

Juror: Marko Fields  
Mojo Coffee Gallery, Minneapolis, MN

## **5th Annual Dirty South Cup Exhibition**

Juror: Doug Peltzman  
River Oaks Square Art Center, Alexandria, LA

## **Twin Cups: National Ceramics Exhibition 2019**

Juror: Vernica Watkins  
MWSU Dept. of Art, St. Joseph, MO

## **The Cup Show: 2019**

Juror: Katie Bosley  
Clay Arts Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

## **SIP: A Ceramic Cup Show**

Juror: Liz Slot Summerfield  
Savanah Clay Community, Savanah, GA

2018

**Brew Vessels Invitational**

Invited Artist  
Workhouse Ceramics  
Lorton Workhouse Art Center, Lorton, VA

**Tabletop: Functional Artwork for the Table**

Juror: Cathi Jefferson  
Art League Gallery, Torpedo Factory, Alexandria, VA

**Atmospheric**

Juror: Linda Christianson  
Clay Center of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

**Missouri Western State University Clay Guild:**

**Twin Cups: National Ceramics Exhibition 2018**

Juror: Mike Stumbras  
MWSU Dept. of Art, St. Joseph, MO

**On the Rocks: An Exhibition of Vessels For and Related to Drinking**

Juror: Pete Pinnell  
Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, MI

**2017**

**Shino Splendor Exhibition**

Juror: Joe Hicks  
District Clay Gallery, Washington, DC

**National Beer Drinking Vessel Exhibition**

Juror: Kenyon Hansen  
District Clay Gallery, Washington, DC

**The National Juried Bowl Show: The Battle of the Bowls**

Juror: David Crane  
Academy Center for the Arts, Lynchburg, VA

**Conductivity: The Many Faces of Copper in Ceramics**

Juror: Dick Lehman  
Companion Gallery, Humboldt, TN

**3rd Annual Clayfest Cup Show: Deep Inner Cups**

Juror: Richard Wehrs  
Gallery Zeke, Steelville Arts Council, Steelville, MO

**The Hudgens 2nd National Juried and Invitational Cup Exhibition**

Juror: Garth Johnson  
Hudgens Center for the Arts, Duluth, GA

**SIP: A Ceramic Cup Show**

Juror: Kimberly Riner  
Savanah Clay Community, Savanah, GA

**Cup Show 2017**

Jurors: Nolan Baumgartner and Peter Jakubowski  
Clay Arts Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

**2016**

**4th Annual Cup Show**

Juror: Courtney Murphy.

Studio 550 Art Center, Manchester, NH

**The National Juried Bowl Show: The Battle of the Bowls**

Juror: Ted Batt

Academy of Fine Arts, Lynchburg, VA

**Tabletop**

Juror: McKenzie Smith

Art League Gallery, Torpedo Factory, Alexandria, VA

**Sweet and Slippery Slope: The Art of Sex and Sexuality**

Jurors: Lauren Henkle & Peter Jakubowski

Clay Arts Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

**2016 2nd Annual Dirty South Mug Competition**

Juror: Kristen Kieffer.

River Oaks Square Art Center, Alexandria, LA

**Cup Show 2016**

Jurors: John Gregg & Peter Jakubowski.

Clay Arts Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

**Drink Me: Cups, Mugs, and Tumblers**

Juror: Sebastian Moh

Mariani Gallery, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO

**SIP: A Ceramic Cup Show**

Jurors: Jen Jenkins, Jane Pleak, Kevin Ryan, & Meredith Sutton

Savanah Clay Community, Savanah, GA

**2015**

**Cup of Comfort International Ceramics Biannual**

Juror: Ray Chen

New England Institute of Education Gallery, Falmouth, ME

**35th Anniversary Exhibition**

Juror: Deborah Bedwell

Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, MD

**2015 Dirty South Mug Competition**

Juror: Tom Coleman

River Oaks Square Art Center, Alexandria, LA

**Drink This: The Workhouse International Ceramic Cup Show**

Juror: Phil Rodgers

The Workhouse Art Center, Lorton, VA

**2014**

**2nd Annual Cup Show**

Juror: Jeremy Randell

Studio 550 Art Center, Manchester, NH

**Biennial Cup Show**

Juror: Matt Schiemann

Morean Center for Clay, St. Petersburg, FL

**Joy of Drinking National Juried Competition**

Juror: Nathan Falter

Phoenix Fired Art, Joplin, MO

**Honorable Mention**

**Experience Transformations: The Impact of Clay**

Jurors: Sarah McCann & Brett Freund  
Baltimore Clayworks & Creative Alliance, Baltimore, MD

**Cup Show**

Jurors: John Gregg & Peter Jakubowski  
Clay Arts Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

**14th Annual National Juried Cup Show**

Juror: Jake Alee  
Kent State University, School of Art Galleries, Kent, OH

**On the Rocks II Exhibition**

Juror: Amy Chase  
Spot 5 Art Center Gallery, Louisville, KY