

FAYE CATES

Making pottery started out as a hobby and has become something of an obsession. My origins of making-creating “stuff” started with sewing and then incorporated weaving. The loom I had was second hand and came from a summer camp, and eventually, the loom moved on to make room for my daughter’s crib. Years later a friend suggested that we sign up for a pottery class, and although the friend never did take the class, I signed up with a three month waiting list for an opening. Working with clay was completely different. This was really starting with the raw materials and putting the steps together to make all kinds of different shapes.

The feel of throwing clay and developing a form is challenging and nurturing at the same time. Sometimes whatever idea I may have had to start with for a pot ends up as something else and opens paths to new directions that I hadn’t considered before, and in the process I learn more about myself.

One of the attributes of ceramics that I find appealing is the potential for endurance. Today we can admire pieces that have survived hundreds or thousands of years and those pieces are still as beautiful if not more so as when they were made. The history of a culture communicates to our present through the work of a potter. Before I began learning about ceramics I saw a picture in National Geographic of a plate from Czarist Russia that was two hundred years old, and it was fabulous. Wouldn’t it be extraordinary to be able to make something beautiful that could last so long, I thought? Well, after a number of years I am able to make pottery, albeit not yet as spectacular as that plate, but, I hope to reach that level of achievement in the future.

EXPERIENCE

Pottery:

1998 to 2006- Classes at Clay Creation Studio

2003 to present- Studio work at home

Sink-making workshop February 2005

Glaze workshop with Ron Roy; Sunnyvale, CA 2006

Employment

- October 2007-present Network Engineer, Advantel
San Jose, CA
- September 1999-June 2006 Material Science Engineer
Milpitas, CA

EDUCATION

BS – Biology, concentration in marine biology

- September 1970 – August 1974 Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, CA

Graduate Work

- Fall 1974-Spring 1976: SFSU at Moss Landing Marine Lab,
Moss Landing, CA

SUMMARY OF CERAMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- Twelve years experience developing skills and artistic expression with functional ceramic forms, primarily firing at cone 6-10. Midrange work at cone 6 began in 2004.
- Operation of electric kilns for bisque as well as cone 6 and 8/9 for midrange and

high fire applications

- Raku firing, pit firing
- 2005, 2007 Open Studio Artist Santa Cruz County
- October/November 2006-2007 Exhibiting Affiliate at Galleria Tonantzin, San Juan Batista, CA
- Exhibiting artist at PVAC 2007 and 2008 members show
- Exhibiting artist at Pottworks Studio, Hamilton, Mi for the Artful Drinking Vessels Exhibit October 2008
- November 2007 workshop lead for working with porcelain and colored clay

AWARDS

- 2008 Santa Cruz County Fair: Second place in Ceramics Fine Art exhibit for an octopus pitcher
 - 2004 Santa Cruz County Fair: Honorable Mention in Fine Arts for a porcelain teapot
 - 2003 Santa Cruz County Fair: First Prize in Fine Arts for ceramic tea set
 - 2002 Santa Cruz County Fair: Second Prize in Fine Arts for a bowl with feet
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