



# Meet the Artist

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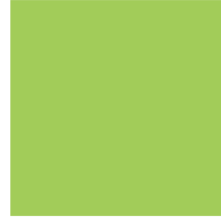


## Kathryn Akbik

Kathryn has been creating ceramics for over 10 years. She studied studio art and ballet as an undergraduate at TCU, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Missouri State University, but was more interested in painting and drawing than in pottery. She was a dancer with Kansas City Ballet and worked for a year in Guatemala as an artist and illustrator before coming to Madison for graduate school. Kathryn currently teaches pottery and acrylic painting with MSCR.

[facebook.com/kathrynakbikdesigns](https://facebook.com/kathrynakbikdesigns)





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## Catherine Barth

Catherine's inspiration comes from the birds and animals she encounters while exploring natural and wild areas. She is primarily a sgraffito artist and enjoys carving her experiences onto the surface of a mug or bowl.







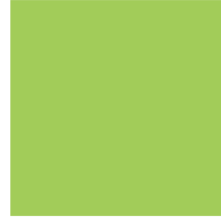
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## Ruth Benedict

Pottery is a favorite hobby for Ruth thanks to parks and recreation programs in the various places where she has lived. Her pottery experience spans 45 years with an interlude for graduate studies and faculty responsibilities. In 2014, the spark was re-ignited when her daughter encouraged Ruth to enroll in a course at MSCR. She was instantly captivated by the creativity and skill of MSCR instructors and their devotion to teaching. Since her retirement in 2019, Ruth has spent many hours in the MSCR studio honing her skills, learning new techniques from her peers, and being inspired by the innovation and creativity of its potters. Her style is somewhat eclectic as she is perpetually eager to learn new forms and decorative techniques.





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## Shandra Bjyrd

Shandra creates implied-function ceramics for entertaining and dining that are wheel thrown. Her items' contours draw the viewer's attention, their surface designs allowing their eyes to roam. Her goal is to make the rituals associated with dining a greater pleasure for the users of her work.





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## Val Blair

Val's first experience creating ceramics was at MSCR Hoyt about 5 years ago, where she found it to be so relaxing and restorative to get her hands dirty and create. She has taken several MSCR pottery classes since then, enjoying the instructors and classes very much. She mostly creates round things on the wheel, but has been inspired by others to try new techniques in the studio such as using leaves to imprint nature designs on the pieces.







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## Roberta Carnes

Roberta has been addicted to working with clay since 1972. She is currently working in porcelain from her home studio. Roberta works on a Leach treadle wheel, the slow food of pottery, making her work more eccentric and more human-connected. Her influences include nature, Japanese and Korean pottery, and the birdsong outside her studio windows.





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## Scott Draves

Scott started his pottery career as a decorator in 1987 at Rowe Pottery in Cambridge, WI. He was the co-founder of Ephraim Pottery but sold his share in 2001. He created Door Pottery in 2001 and in 2004 purchased the former Lakeside Pottery in Madison. Scott continues to be an avid pottery collector and member of the American Art Pottery Association. He currently teaches adult pottery classes at MSCR.

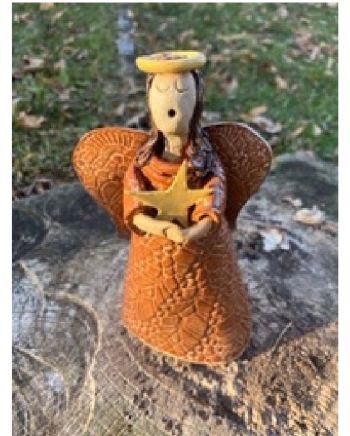
<https://www.doorpottery.com>





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## Gloria Green

Gloria's first experiences with clay were in classes at a museum art school in Massachusetts. When she moved to Madison, she joined the Madison Potters Guild and was a member of that group for 10 years. After a hiatus of way too many years, she got back to clay in Madison College and MSCR classes. She now enjoys being a part of the MSCR Pottery Studio.







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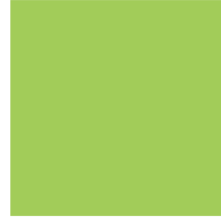
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## Todd Hafele

A potter once told Todd, "You're only as good as your last pot." That has always stayed with him. His work is always in flux, pushing forward to the next pot. Todd is currently the pottery coordinator for MSCR at Warner Park Community Recreation Center.





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**Holli Hebl**

Holli has always loved playing in the dirt! During the summer she is out in the garden and once the weather turns colder she plays inside! She loves trying new techniques and is so grateful to the potters in the studio who have been immensely generous with their time and knowledge.





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## Rachel Imsland

Rachel is a Madison artist who creates unique, hand-built ceramic forms in her home studio. Find more of her work at [etsy.com/shop/rachelimslandart](https://www.etsy.com/shop/rachelimslandart).







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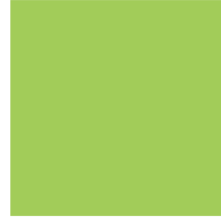
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## Ellen Karlson

Ellen took up pottery many eons ago, but forsook it for quilting, finding she couldn't do both and work full-time as a psych nurse. Once she retired, she jumped back into ceramics. She loves working with clay and being around others doing the same.





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## Mina Kato

Mina has taken several classes at MSCR and Midwest Clay Project.

Presently, she draws on the heritage of her native and adopted homelands to create figurative hand-built pieces.







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## Amber Keith

Amber loves creating ceramics that bring beauty and richness into daily life. Her pottery is both wheel thrown and hand-built, with sometimes both techniques in one piece. She enjoys exploring texture and color in her work, carving or stamping her pieces, then staining those designs with oxides and underglazes to bring attention to the intricate patterns. She is always on the lookout for interesting textures for use in clay, and for fun new glaze combinations.







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## Colleen Kerl

Colleen has been a long-time collector and admirer of art pottery. This piqued her curiosity toward the making process. Once she got her hands on the wheel, she was hooked. She specializes in wheel-thrown work and enjoys expanding the skills she has amassed over the years.





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## Brian Kluge

Brian Kluge is a sculptor in the Madison, WI area. He earned a B.S. degree in art education from UW-Madison and a MFA degree from UNL. His time as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in sub-Saharan Africa contributes a great deal to the unique aesthetic sensibility in his work. Brian has taught ceramics at the university level and continues to show work nationally. He currently teaches at Madison College and Midwest Clay Project. Find more of his work at [www.briankluge.com](http://www.briankluge.com).





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## Christine Konen

Christine is a Wisconsin country gal at heart who lists dirt as a hobby. Through clay mentoring, making bowls for Habitat for Humanity benefits, and now teaching, Christine has been working in clay for over a decade! Her work is functional, inspired by textures found in nature. She enjoys making small-batch wood-fired pottery. Each piece is unique and one-of-a-kind. Find more of her work at [instagram.com/konencreations](https://www.instagram.com/konencreations).







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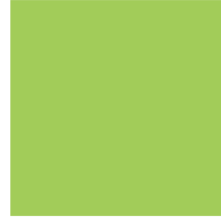
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## Cynthia L. Koshalek

Cynthia is a retired art teacher at Waterloo Schools with 38 years of teaching experience. She has been a professional Ceramic artist for 12 years and is a member of the Madison Art Guild, the WI Alliance of Artists and Craftspeople, WI Metalsmith and WI Visual Artists. She takes classes at MSCR and is a member of the Midwest Clay Project. Artzy Studio and the Hardy Gallery in Door County exhibit her pottery.





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## Larisa Kruger

Larisa has been making ceramics with MSCR since 2019. She likes creating functional pieces and using underglaze transfers that have simple lines or creating different textures augmented by glaze. Recently she has been experimenting with marbling clay bodies to show off the way clay is manipulated during the throwing process.





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## Lisa Lang

Lisa Lang Pottery is handmade in Madison, WI., emphasizing functionality with contemporary, geometrical and nature themes. Lisa is inspired by patterns and takes great care in how her pots will be used, striving to make pieces that are functional at their core. Recipient of 2019 DABL "People's Choice Award" and two consecutive (2019, 2021) "Best in Category" awards at the Madison Art Fair Off the Square juried shows, she is currently the MSCR Pottery Coordinator where she also teaches a variety of ceramic classes.







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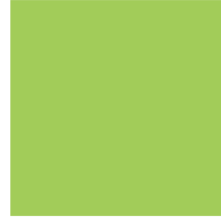
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## Josie Lathrop

Josie has been making ceramics for over five years. She is part of the community clay studio at Midwest Clay Project, where she makes functional ceramics, jewelry and other fun items.





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## Madeleine Manning

Madeleine Parker uses high fire to produce one of a kind ceramic items.







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## Crystal Mc Parland

Trained as a chemist, Crystal makes pots that are highly processed to practice celebrating the journey instead of the goal. She wood-fires because the fire, physicality and nature turns the clay into rocks and feeds her soul. Her cups are a self-portrait and a portrait of women she admires.  
[instagram.com/mcparland\\_ceramics](https://www.instagram.com/mcparland_ceramics)







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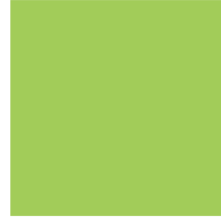
## Jewel Millard

Jewel quickly fell in love with clay after taking her first class in 2015. She soon became a studio assistant at Madison College, joined the Clay Club and made plans to attend her first pottery convention (NCECA). Since then, she set up a home studio, attended workshops, participated in numerous group firings and helped build a wood kiln with a small group of inspirational women.

Playing D&D with a group of friends rekindled a childhood love of folktales, mythology, and magic leading her to explore concepts of dark whimsy and escapism through underglaze painting and surface design.

Instagram@geekyloft





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## Pat Moore

Pat loves the process of making pottery - the feel of the clay on the wheel and the anticipation of pots fresh from the kiln. She first studied pottery in college and later took a 30+ year break from making pottery while she worked and raised a family. She came back to making pottery at MSCR in 2010. Find more of Pat's work at [patmoorepottery.com](http://patmoorepottery.com).





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## Ken Nekola

Ken has been a working potter for over forty years. After participating in a MSCR wood-fired pottery workshop, he decided to build a small wood-fired kiln of his own. His current work is functional wood-fired stoneware with Shino glazes and applied wood ash.







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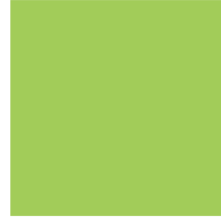
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## Viken Peltekian

Viken is a longtime teacher of art who still enjoys working with clay. He taught college ceramics and sculpture for about 20 years and has been teaching youth ceramics for MSCR since relocating to the Madison area since 2014.





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## Rosey Snellman

Since retiring, Rosey has time to get back to a hobby that is fun and relaxes her.





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## Leann Tigges

As Leann approached retirement, she returned to pottery many years after her first foray into clay. She did not expect to engage in handbuilding, but has found it to be both functional and fun. She finds it takes longer to produce pieces than on the wheel, but she likes the variations in form that are possible. She enjoys using carving and sculptural techniques to make her pieces distinctive.







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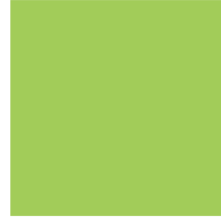
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## Gloria Van Dixhorn

Gloria is a Madison based wood fired ceramic artist. She creates functional work decorated with designs inspired by nature.  
Instagram@gloria\_loves\_clay



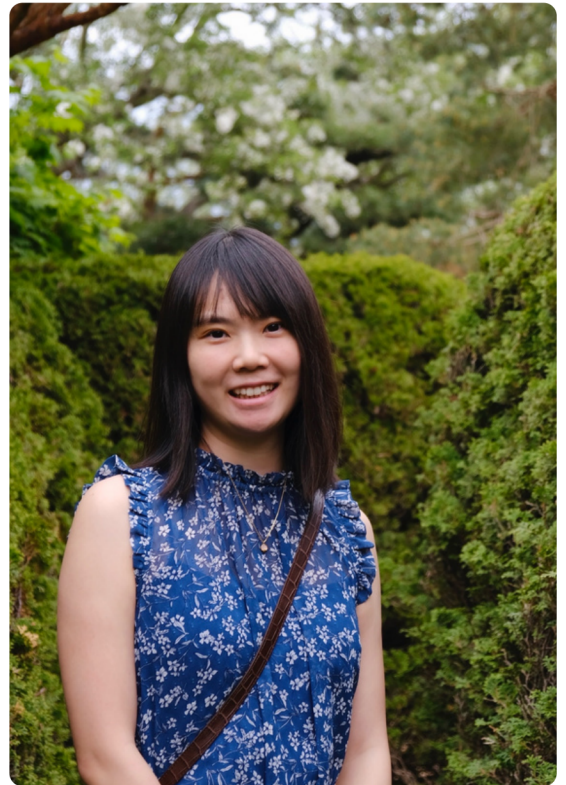


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## Mengdi Wang

Struck by the beauty of the ancient Chinese and Greek pottery, the balance of the aesthetic and the practical, Mengdi is fresh to the art of wheel throwing, dipping and pouring. She enjoys the process of transforming a slab raw clay into a unique and functional object, even with its fair share of failures and experiments. Each piece she makes is a small step in embracing the enduring charm of this art, and she is grateful to be on this journey.





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## Steve Weakley

Since retiring, Steve has time to get back to a hobby that he finds fun and relaxing.







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## Nancy Welch

Nancy Welch retired from the world of graphic design and business ownership. With a degree in art and as part of her new journey, she is exploring the world of ceramic art and traveling whenever she can to find new inspirations.

