



Meet the Artist

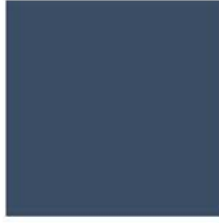


Kathryn Akbik

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





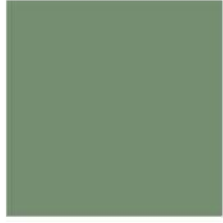
Meet the Artist



Jimmy Balwit

Jimmy is thrilled to teach pottery again at MSCR. He is inspired by the broad community of potters--from the students and instructors to potters in distant lands working with traditional and modern techniques. Jimmy deeply enjoys the making process, particularly throwing on the wheel, altering forms, and subjecting them to the fury and whim of the wood kiln. He is most interested in forms that carry the movement of the wheel and dynamic, undulating lines that move beyond the bounds of symmetry.



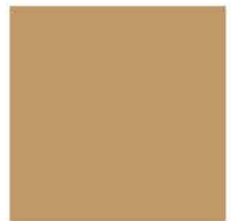


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Catherine Barth

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



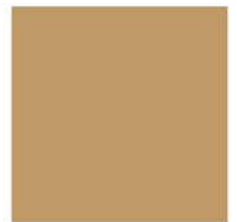


Meet the Artist



Joanne Becker

Joanne took her first ceramics class as a college junior. After a long career, she returned to the pottery classes at Hoyt school and now enjoys working in the MSCR studios. She enjoys wheel and slab work and often incorporates items/inspiration from nature in her work.





Meet the Artist

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.



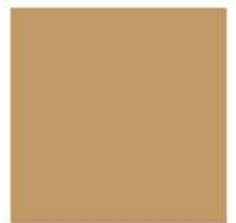


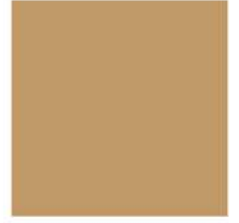
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Vered Bernstein

Vered has been making pottery for the past seven years. She focuses on wheel thrown functional pieces. She enjoys learning new techniques, adding textures to her pots, and finding new glaze combinations.



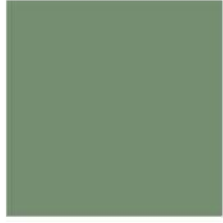


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Shandra Bjyrd

Shandra first met pottery in kindergarten art class. Always the artsy type, she was often among the first students to complete projects. Seeking to keep the early birds wrangled Mr. Zeka, the art teacher, would occasionally show them his pottery wheel and kiln. She has been hooked ever since! Shandra loves to play with curvy forms and observe the freezing tracks that mark the flow of glaze. 16 years into her chosen passion, she finds inspiration in the great potters who patron the studio she manages, Midwest Clay Project. In teaching adults wheel throwing for over 12 years Shandra treasures being their first introduction into the world of creating ceramics! While wheel throwing forms with implied functions is her main desire she does occasionally enjoy sculpting and more aesthetic work.





Meet the Artist



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.





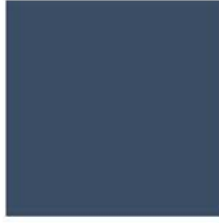
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Ellie Braun

Ellie takes inspiration from mixing colors & patterns to make pottery that celebrates the every day. She has been throwing for a bit over a year and recently started teaching ceramics within the last couple of months.





Meet the Artist



Mary Cardona

Mary began throwing pots in 2016 and has never been far away or long away from an MSCR wheel since then.

When she retired late last year, it gave her the opportunity to spend a lot more time honing her skills and experimenting. She particularly likes carving and distorting shapes organically.





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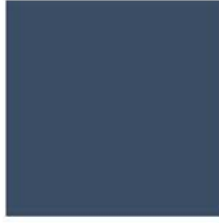


Scott Draves

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>





Meet the Artist

Mary Flynn

Mary is relatively new to the joys of ceramics. She took her first Introduction to Pottery class at Madison College in 2019, which was shortly derailed by the pandemic. She then started taking classes at MSCR in the Fall of 2021 and has participated in the Open Studio since 2022. She enjoys making functional pieces, focusing on being able to reproduce the same size and shape for small sets. The final surprise of what comes out of the kiln after glazing continues to make her smile. The Open Studio participants have become a wonderful community for Mary to spend her afternoons with.





Meet the Artist

Wendee Gardner

After dabbling in ceramics in college, Wendee took a pottery class to learn the basics. Instead of being met with frustration, she found joy in the technical challenge. Within a few weeks, she was making functional wares with a vibrant flare. Since then, Wendee has been creating affordable ceramics in a kaleidoscope of colors and patterns. She believes that the items we surround ourselves with have the power to bring us joy, support our wellbeing and spark our creative pursuits.





Meet the Artist



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.





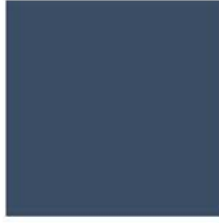
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Caroline Harvey

Inspired by the colors and shapes found in nature, Caroline has been making pottery on and off for 40 years. She specializes in functional art like lamps, chip and dip bowls, mugs and soap dispensers. She often works in colored porcelain with a clear glaze. Caroline loves meeting her customers and doing commissioned work.





Meet the Artist



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.



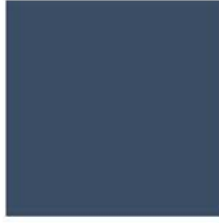


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Stacy Hilton Klutzke

Stacy started making pottery during her BFA at Pacific Lutheran University and moved on to teaching pottery after receiving her Bachelor of Secondary Art Education from UBC. While she enjoys the zen of throwing and the simplicity of functional pottery, she has become more known for her whimsical handbuilt pieces, including pop culture characters as piggy banks.





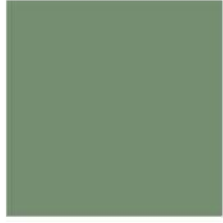
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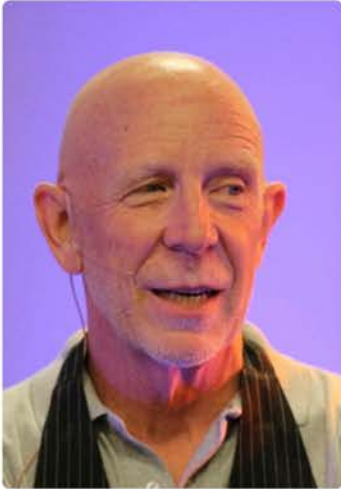
Cynthia Hoffman

Cynthia fell in love with the wheel when she was 16 and has never looked back. It's only recently that she's returned to doing her own work, however, after a long career as an art teacher. She's taught at all levels-preschool through university-and, while she still finds joy in teaching one night per week, she loves having more time now to explore form and function through clay.





Meet the Artist



John Hunter

John has been making pottery for over half a century. He lets the clay “speak for itself” and doesn’t overwork it. Hunter’s functional work is made to be used. The pots are balanced, the handles are comfortable and the spouts pour. It is made to last. Wall pieces are also serving platters. You can drink your coffee out of his elephant mugs. Sacred vessels inspire contemplation. Each piece is intentional and has a purpose.





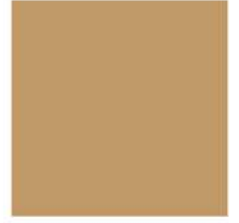
Meet the Artist



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).





Meet the Artist



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.





Meet the Artist



Amber Keeth

Amber has taken pottery classes all over the country, from San Francisco to Madison, to workshops over the internet. She's played with wood, gas and electric firing, and currently works out of her home studio in Madison, with occasional forays back to MSCR. She'll always treasure the community found at the MSCR studio!





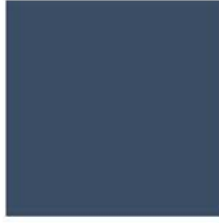
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Mina Keith

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.



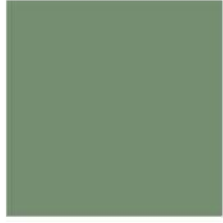


Meet the Artist

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.





Meet the Artist



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).





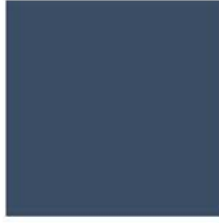
Meet the Artist



Cindy L. Koshalek

Cindy 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.



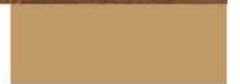


Meet the Artist



Larisa Kruger

Larisa loves the process and variety of techniques that can be used when creating ceramics. A variety of functional and decorative pieces can be found in her work - everything from mugs and vases to jewelry displays, drawer pulls and ornaments. She loves playing with different ways to create texture and patterns, especially using mixed clays, colored clay and slip and transferred patterns.





Meet the Artist



Lisa Lang

Lisa emphasizes functionality with contemporary, geometrical and nature themes. She 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 at MSCR West where she also teaches a variety of ceramic classes.





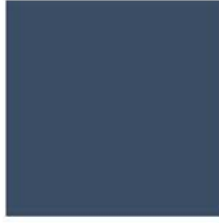
Meet the Artist



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.





Meet the Artist



Hannah Majeska

Hannah is a hobbyist potter. She has always found joy in the medium of clay and is delighted to have returned to the craft within the past few years. Hannah enjoys working at the wheel and producing both functional and decorative pieces.





Meet the Artist



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)

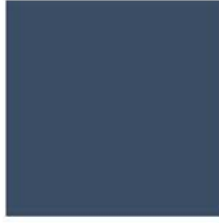


Meet the Artist

Jewel Millard

As a multimedia artist, Jewel has worked in many mediums including digital painting, gouache, resin and ink, but clay remains her keystone. Within a year of taking her first pottery class, she became a studio monitor at Madison College, joined the Clay Club, and attended her first pottery conference, NCECA. Since then, she has set up a home studio, started her own business and helped build a wood kiln with a small group of inspirational women. She is inspired by her childhood love of folktales, mythology, and magic, exploring ideas of fantasy, dark whimsy, and escapism through the use of colorful illustrations and surface designs that can be seen throughout her work. Find more of her work under the name Geekyloft on all main social media sites!





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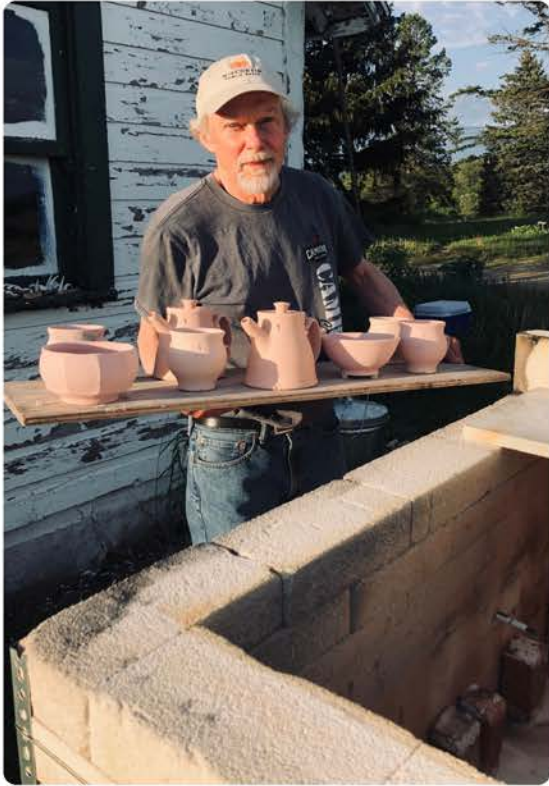
Elsa Nekola

Elsa learned wheel throwing from taking classes at Madison College, local studios and working with her dad, Ken, a career potter at Rowe and Ephraim. In 2023, Elsa and Ken were inspired to build a fast-fire wood kiln after taking wood firing workshops through MSCR. Many of Elsa's pieces were fired in the fast-fire kiln using stoneware clay, Shino glazes, and applied wood ash. Elsa enjoys the process-oriented work of pottery and is continually humbled and fascinated by what she learns from each firing.



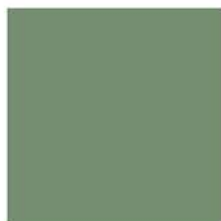


Meet the Artist



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.





Meet the Artist



Mason Opp

Mason enjoys the art, science, and practice of working with clay. He is inspired by nature, and prioritizes having fun and learning in each piece he makes.





Meet the Artist



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 in 2014.





Meet the Artist



Molly Plunkett

Molly has been working at ceramics for many years and loves the variety of shapes and finishes possible.





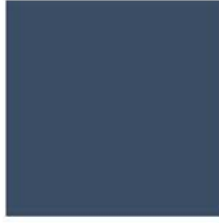
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Shane Querubin

Shane is new to ceramics, but is passionate about the craft. She strives to add colorful patterns to her pieces making them fun decorative pieces or fun functional kitchenware. She does detailed hand-painted items by utilizing underglaze in most of her work. Most of the work is thrown on the wheel, but she also utilizes handbuilding techniques.



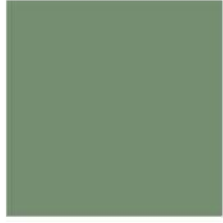


Meet the Artist

Julia Reeves

Julia's pottery is deeply inspired by the natural world. Using a wheel to create thrown pottery, she finds a profound connection to the earth, gravity and the physical body. This practice has transformed Julia's relationship with the environment, grounding her in a sense of heritage and gratitude. Each piece is shaped using tools passed down from Julia's mother and grandmother, infusing the work with a rich sense of history and familial connection.



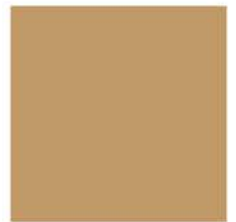


Meet the Artist



Jennifer Shattuck-Falkowski

Jennifer is a teaching textile artist and fabric dyer who found herself out of work and a little lost at the beginning of the pandemic. She took her first ever pottery class at MSCR as soon as classes reopened and became obsessed, of course. Pottery has everything that she loves about making art: the chance to make a huge mess and a high failure rate, Jennifer loves experimenting with different techniques and shapes. She is always learning and feels so proud to make and share her useful and pretty pots.



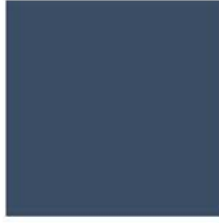


Meet the Artist

David Smith

David Smith is currently a Professor of Art at Edgewood College in Madison. His work in ceramics focuses on the creation of wood-fired vessels and sculpture. For over thirty years he has developed his wood-firing skills. His personal kiln, the Kegonsa Anagama, offers a diverse range of surface qualities from producing complex firebox surfaces that compliment his sculptural works to creating subtle patinas on a range of functional vessels. Since 1978, his passion for wood-fired ceramics has allowed him to travel and work with a broad range of artists, exhibiting his work in Japan and China. For decades he has created ceramic art that reflects East Asian methods and aesthetics while maintaining a sensibility that is undeniably Western. He has always been intrigued by this cross-pollination. To see more of his work visit www.farmandfire.com.





Meet the Artist



Rosey Snellman

Rosey has been making pots for years, and it's now a hobby gone wild. Her work draws inspiration from nature (especially geology) and from stories, with particular attention to color and texture. Most of her work is wheel-thrown, although she's been stepping into the hand building arena a bit lately.





Meet the Artist



Victoria Storck

After years of creating mostly with fiber or paint, Victoria took up pottery in retirement and finds immense joy and inspiration in the MSCR pottery classes and studio. She makes functional everyday objects that feel good to hold and use, and loves to learn new techniques, as well as apply previous skills to her work with clay.





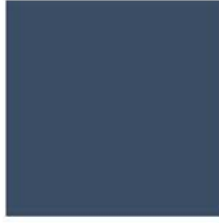
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Leann Tigges

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.





Meet the Artist



Susan Valko

Pottery has been a wonderful new adventure for Susan that she discovered as an adult, providing her with constant learning and growth opportunities since 2021. Playing with clay and the clay community that she is grateful to be a part of has helped her through some tough times. Susan loves to experiment with throwing shapes and altering them in different ways like carving, piercing and tearing. She is looking forward to getting inspired by all the wonderful artists' work at the MSCR Pottery Sale.





Meet the Artist



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





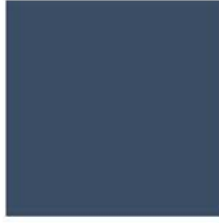
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Paula Volpiansky

Paula has been throwing pots for a few years finding it to be relaxing and a great escape. She has managed to replace almost all of the dinnerware in her home with ones she has thrown. Paula is grateful to the instructors and the support of her MSCR studio mates learning so much from all of them.





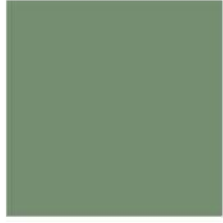
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Steve Weakley

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.





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Maxwell Wilke

Maxwell received a BA in Studio Art with Distinction from Cornell College, but it wasn't until about a decade later, in 2021, that he discovered his passion for ceramics. After taking a pottery class at a local ceramics studio, Maxwell quickly fell in love with the tactile nature of clay and the intricate processes involved in shaping it. Since then he has been delighted making functional, wheel thrown pottery.

