

Artist Statement-Eleanor M. Brown

As a youngster in second grade, I took a summer art class at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. I vividly remember making a little clay donkey and being captivated with clay and the magical process of glazing. Today, that same childlike fascination with the clay process continues to delight and drive me in my artistic journey. I have chosen clay because of the feeling of freedom I get working with a pliable, three-dimensional artform. Although I am also a watercolor artist, I find working two dimensionally a bit more of a challenge, yet working in clay always makes me feel right at home. One lifetime will not be long enough to travel all of the possibilities that the art of pottery has to offer.

I feel most successful when I can combine function with aesthetic appeal. In our hurried lifestyle, one of life's simple pleasures is sharing a meal in pleasant surroundings using handcrafted pottery. It is so satisfying to send a ceramic piece home with a customer knowing that they have carefully chosen that piece for its beauty and knowing it will be used at the dinner table--one of life's most basic, yet intimate rituals.

For the last 16 years I have explored many diverse avenues in ceramics through handbuilding, throwing in earthenware and stoneware. Recently, I have also been creating works in polymer clay which has led to jewelry design and beading. Currently I teach art to students at the elementary level in a local public school. I consider myself so fortunate to have the opportunity to pass on my enthusiasm and knowledge of the artistic process to the younger generation. Clay is always the Favorite with my students!

In my ceramic pieces, I try to capture a small part of what I sense as God's gift of perfection in our midst--nature. My leaf pieces came out of my brief experience of living in Southeast Asia where I was surrounded by lush, tropical foliage. Naturally, I was inspired to use foliage and handmade stamps as the basis for my pieces that are functional yet capture the brilliant richness of color and graceful form of a leaf while it is vibrant and alive. Each one of my ceramic leaves is imprinted with a real leaf that has come from my Gulf Coast garden on the banks of Dickinson Bayou.

Eleanor M. Brown
Bayou Pottery
Dickinson, TX