

Karen Fiscus
Houston, Texas

281-280-8591
klfiscus@swbell.net

I have had a life-long fascination with clay. I remember, before I entered first grade, visiting a family friend's home where a little stream ran through the side yard. In that stream was a vein of the most beautiful, pure white clay I have ever seen. To this day, I still want to dig it up and work with it, and wonder if anyone ever has.

I was encouraged to explore the arts, but I was also encouraged by my father and advisors to pursue a career in science. It wasn't until my senior year in college that I took my first real ceramic throwing class. This led me, after graduation, to continue in ceramics at the Columbus, Ohio - Parks and Recreation Cultural Arts program where Helene Dwyer was teaching ceramics. Since Helene had worked with Barnard Leach, and I took classes from Helene for five years, I consider myself a second-generation Leach student.

After moving to Wilmington, Delaware in 1985, I helped Jody Hoffman at the Wilmington Cultural Art Center and started selling pottery at a few craft fairs. At this time I often said I work my day job so that I can do what I love — pottery.

I moved to Houston at the end of 1997 from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I am now in the Master of Arts program at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Under the tutelage of Nick de Vries, I started cutting and altering my thrown forms. When I started naming these pieces, such as "Not My Fault," "Six Sisters," and "Putting the Pieces Back Together," I realized that I have been expressing my life in clay, cutting, twisting and reshaping my thrown pieces as an analogy to my life. I have been cut apart, molded, and reshaped by life's circumstances. In pulling myself back together I have created a new and greater life, more that I was before. I am not sure where all this will lead, but I hope my work will always be a cut above....