



2009 Workshop Instructors' Bios/Artist Statements:

Becca Floyd:

Becca Floyd earned a BFA at Middle Tennessee State University. She completed a residency at Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts in 1999, and is currently a studio potter in Mars Hill, NC. Becca teaches at John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN, and is a master teacher at Odyssey.

Artist Statement:

My work begins with solid functional forms, progresses to wet altering, and ends with layered patterns that reveal themselves over time in a relationship with the user. Being drawn to contemporary and traditional Asian clay, and living in western North Carolina, allows me to see how other potters are inspired by similar archetypes of functional ceramics. I'm interested in the interplay between form and surface, and in the cycles of making and decorating and firing; it's a difficult and rewarding lifestyle.

Becca Johnson:

Becca Johnson received her BFA in Ceramics from Western Carolina University and then her MFA in Painting from American University in Washington DC. She currently lives

in Asheville where she pursues her love of painting, bookmaking and ceramics, sometimes combining all three!

Artist Statement:

rebecca johnson was born as a walrus almost 28 years ago. she spends a lot of time looking for treasures in the world. flea markets, railroad tracks, and dumpsters have been the primary sources for her most prized finds, although the possibility of finding treasures is ever present. "i'm like a seagull, always with my eyes peeled, searching for shiny or precious objects- although my idea of precious seems to be a bit deviant from the norm." once, she found a photo album from a woman named dell barnhart, who was born in the early 1900s. the album is the story of her life, and in one of the photos a group of gypsies stand amassed on an empty dirt road in bulgaria(1929) with their dancing bear. the bear, just a young thing, is standing on his hind legs, in chains, his fur yet unmatted. it is at once gorgeous and heartbreaking.

i think that the common thread in all of my work embodies this contradiction: the heavy sweetness of living. the inability to ever find something entirely wonderful, or entirely terrible. there is always weight, and there is always buoyancy.

Heather Tinnaro:

Bio & Artist Statement:

Born and raised in the warm south, I have spent most of my life out of doors. I have never outgrown the desire to run wild in the woods and play in the muddy dirt. As a small child, I dug indigenous clay from riverbanks with my mother. We made pinch pots never destined for a fire. An artist herself, though with little time, she raised me and my five younger siblings to appreciate and cultivate beauty in all of our surroundings.

Several lifetimes after those early experiences, I took my first pottery class with Stan Cowen at the Arts Center in St. Petersburg, Florida. Within two years, I was working with Charlie Parker at the St. Petersburg Clay Company learning to fabricate glazes and fire kilns. As the kiln and glaze tech, I had the opportunity to work with some of our greatest living ceramic artists. It was my privilege to work with Resident Artists to assist and fire for and with Don Reitz, Don Bendel, David Smith, and others.

In 2006, I uprooted my children, cats, and houseplants and transplanted us in Asheville, North Carolina. It has been a most auspicious move, introducing me to new teachers and friends, most influential being Becca Floyd. My work has benefited immeasurably, becoming more organic and even more accessibly functional. It has even taken on a narrative quality with the brushwork and tiny birds.

I now watch the seasons change far from the seaside of my birth. The mountains of western North Carolina are an amazing and ever-changing setting in which to raise my children and make my work. The roots that I am putting down in this community will, I hope, last me a lifetime.

Cynthia Lee:

Cynthia Lee has studied with a wide variety of clay artists, including apprenticeships with Kathy Triplett and Terry Gess. From 2003–2008 she served as Director for Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts in the River Arts District.

Artist Statement:

My curiosity in clay is coupled with my passion for the endless beauty of this world and the strength of the human spirit. A plant's ability to burst forth from a slab of concrete, continually changing to adapt and survive the harsh atmosphere of earth, gives hope of endurance. My love of nature, the cycle of growth, and the strength of all living things finds its way into each piece. I'm fortunate to be able to create images inspired by patterns of nature, the smallest wonders on this planet. Much of my enjoyment is spent endlessly scavenging for odd, natural objects—a lovely way to spend the day!

Holly deSaillan:

Holly de Saillan earned an A.A. in Early Childhood Education and B.A. in Visual Arts/Ceramics. She currently works with children at ArtSpace Charter School and maintains a studio in the River Arts District.

Artist Statement:

Our world amazes and entralls me, every day. My current work is simply an expression of my amazement in, my joy of, and my gratitude for our world.