

My Life in Clay

Sara Swink



Which Way to Reality?
Ceramic
20" x 8" x 5"

I make clay human and animal figures with a psychological stance. My hand-built sculptural work imparts feelings and ideas through stories, often with a humorous edge. I often use collage to gather inspiration, recombining and developing ideas through sketching on paper and in clay. I like to riff and doodle, one idea leading to another, in an endless progression of a personal narrative that reflects and feeds my inner life. I use a gritty sculpture clay, incise into the clay, bisque fire, finish with oxides, underglazes and glazes, then fire to cone 5.

My love of clay began at the age of 8 with the encouragement of our next-door neighbor who was a potter. In high school, I learned to throw on the potter's wheel, hand build, and mix glazes; I bought my own kickwheel with money earned cleaning houses. I left ceramics behind until I took a class at Palo Alto Art Center nearly twenty years later. This was followed by a workshop in 1998 with Coeleen Kiebert, whose methodology fuses artmaking with the psychology of the creative individual. For many years I've considered Kiebert my mentor, and early on was invited to teach her approach. At the same time I pursued an academic art education in art history, ceramics, drawing, printmaking and foundry work at Foothill College, San Jose State University, and San Francisco State University through the first year of graduate study in ceramics. I taught at a number of California venues and in my own studio, while participating in regional shows. In 2006, I moved to the Portland area, where I established Clay Circle Studio, continue to show nationally and teach locally. In 2013, I was featured on Oregon Public Broadcasting's "Oregon Art Beat".



Clay Circle
STUDIO

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