

BARBARA SATTERFIELD

ARTIST STATEMENT

I am inspired by nature, especially its forms: stones, buds, seed pods, nests—the bend of a stick, the flare of a turtle-shell rim, exoskeletons of insects and growths of all kinds.

My interest in nature is lifelong: I maintain a collection of found objects that began when I was ten years old and continues to this day. My nonfunctional pieces and installations are informed by these actual objects and sometimes feature or incorporate press molds of same. My work gives shape to my fascination with, respect for, and intuitive identification with the diversity, fragility and tenacity I observe in nature.

As a coil-builder my first artistic influences were images of functional and ritualistic vessels created by ancient Asian, Middle Eastern, and Native American civilizations whose artists integrated natural motifs into their ceramic and created human and animal forms in clay. When I create my work, I feel connected to this history even while pursuing a contemporary interpretation of the medium.