

ARTIST STATEMENT
BARBARA SATTERFIELD

My ongoing fascination is with nature. Certainly color, but more so the forms of things: 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 fascination is reflected in a collection of found objects that began when I was 10 and continues to this day. My nonfunctional pieces are informed by these actual objects and give shape to my respect for and intuitive identification with the diversity, fragility and tenacity I observe in nature. I am drawn to ceramic work from ancient civilizations whose artists integrated natural forms in clay. When I coil-build, I feel connected to this history even while pursuing a contemporary interpretation of the medium.

Through the eyes of one who loves to dig in the dirt, watch seasons turn, and scour the woods—I offer my work as an invitation to contemplate the natural miracles available for us to see every day. I tend to create several interpretations of a particular form, especially buckeyes: in memory of my dad—who carried one in his pocket for luck—until he gave it to me, to celebrate the inherent hope all seeds hold, and in tribute to the function of the pod: the vessel that protects the hope for the future.

I am a product of, and my artwork is an expression of, grateful appreciation. For good friends and fellow artists who have informed and encouraged what I attempt to communicate through my artwork. For my professional experience with museums and exhibitions that informs what I explore and how I develop a series. For my involvement with the Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts for giving me the opportunity to serve and contribute to the professional development and promotion of Arkansas women artists. And especially for my amazing family tree--past, present and future--that delights and surprises me as regularly as the sun rises and the moon sets.