

Artist Joan Bontempo's work in clay and mixed media interlaces variations of traditional imagery, surface and vessel with the continuity and use of written symbols and venerable forms: the markings and the graffitied, the reimagined, the renovated, and the patched together, exploring the beauty in the layers marred by time and neglect.

These surfaces are documented by photograph and gathered over decades in the cities and towns in which she has lived, worked and traveled, the visual elements give life to the remnants that connect our past, purpose and the amalgam of our contemporary lives.

Her work in clay developed from traditional, functional forms and conventional techniques to experimental methods, with clay combined with other materials or found objects, and including altered canvases or metal. She uses extruded, rolled and stressed clay forms to construct doorways, windows, architectural partitions and passthroughs as additions to textured and colorful canvased surfaces.

Eclectic in theme, her abstract figures express psychology and spiritual appreciations, hand formed/thrown large forms and are uniquely altered, clay/ mixed media pieces draw from musings color and movement in a solid medium. Her studio is inspired by the art of the ancients: those forms, marks and surfaces referenced by the Modernists, Abstract Expressionists and Post-Modernists of our era.

Discarded becomes new again through the ages as a visual language.