

Tina Opp

Artist Statement

Human and natural artifacts inspire me to think about what is lost in the erosion of time and what remains. I want my work to elicit feelings of inspection, curiosity, and recognition; to compel a primal desire to touch, to feel, and to know. I enjoy the mystery found in relics and objects, and I make work that taps into the energy of the unknown.

The pieces are hand-built using mainly pinch and coil methods, these processes help me to create rhythmic and refined forms. The forms are the identifiable foundation for obsessive textures. Strong curves and familiar references to organic objects establish a connection between the work and our natural surroundings. Once the forms are created, a great deal of time and consideration is spent on the surface. The added texture develops the story of each piece, in turn adding complexity to the work, layering information, and inviting closer exploration.

The pieces are fired in a wood kiln, or a wood/soda fired kiln. The turbulent nature of these firings enhances the surface texture through flashing and ash deposits, with the dynamic quality of the atmosphere simulating the story of geologic erosion.

After firing I spend time finding the best way to display the work, either with groupings of different pieces arranged together, or using reclaimed wood to make bases. The finished sculptures represent artifacts, with texture relaying the passage of time.