



Monica Guerrero Artist's Statement

When I am seated at the potter's wheel, I don't have an exact idea of how the bowls will turn out; only when the unfired greenware pots emerges do I begin thinking of how they might turn out. One thing I am sure of, I want my pots to be functional. I hope my tableware and pots can be used on a daily basis. I think that every object can be a piece of art no matter its humble function. Though I enjoy creating an object where the only function will be to provide beauty to its environment, I do favor those which will provide a sense of usefulness.

I decorate every pot I make, mostly because I think every object can tell a story. Some stories will be better told with the two colors of *sgraffito*, and some others will need many colors. For the latter, I choose either majolica or carving. Sometimes it is not a story but a vignette, for these I choose the slip trailing either by itself or combined with carving. Perhaps the element in common among these techniques is drawing. I do all my drawing free hand, which gives me the freedom for spontaneous detail or to change the original idea.

The idea of my designs come from many sources —nature, my background as a Peruvian Latin American Art Historian, ethnic art from around the world, children's book illustrations, animation and cartoons. These influences can be seen throughout my work in subtle or overt ways. I have to say that I am a bit obsessed by details—I have a constant fight, for example, with my tendency to respond to *horror vacui*.

My clay hand-building process is completely opposite to that of work done using the wheel. I have a very clear idea in my mind of the object I want to create. Often I'll pay homage to an artisan by creating in clay that which was first seen in another medium. For example, I have always loved hand-woven fabric and embroidery: my sculpted baskets are to me just another way to weave. I feel a deep respect for the artisans who dedicate their lives pursuing perfection in delicate creations of wool, cotton, or straw. With my clay pieces I strive to incorporate the sensibilities of those intricate crafters around the world and create an alternative take to the traditions and culture their works exemplify.

Monica Guerrero

3107 West Price Ave.
moniguerrero@msn.com

Tampa, FL 33611

<http://barroyarena.weebly.com>

813- 835- 4472