



feet of clay

ceramics lending library

Artist Biographies

Frank Caro:

Frank Caro has been active at Feet of Clay since 2009 when he retired as a faculty member in gerontology at UMass Boston. He appreciates the support that Feet of Clay provides to people of all ages who want to develop skills in pottery. Frank lives in Brookline where he brews beer, gardens, edits a professional journal, and involves himself in various community affairs.

Richard Garrity:

My work is primarily functional; it is influenced by clean lines and traditional forms. I am drawn to simple, straightforward contours with interesting visual surfaces achieved by layering glazes. I enjoy being able to look at the surface of a pot and see a depth that is only achieved by the firing process.

I work alternately in porcelain, stoneware and terra cotta, I am continually changing the clays and firing temperatures as each clay body has its own uniquely interesting properties. I am not above flights into the non-functional world as my recent series of miniature teapots will attest.

Richard Gilson:

My interest in ceramics developed while studying art and anthropology as an undergraduate. During the past eleven years my ceramics practice has evolved from being a student myself to being an instructor and finally to being an instructor/manager. My work varies from functional wheel thrown pieces to sculptural forms that are often a combination of wheel thrown and hand built components.

Megan Leary-Crist:

Megan is an artist/educator who makes work that reflects organic structures which are both functional and sculptural. Visual puzzles interest Megan, and inform her methods of making that challenge notions of balance. Megan is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, Mass Art, and is currently taking graduate courses in art education at Boston University. She lives in Jamaica Plain with her husband and two Springer Spaniels

Jeremy Ogusky:

I am a studio potter in Jamaica Plain, MA, producing unique & functional ceramics. My studio practice is influenced by my work with potters in Southern Africa & South America and background in public health & social activism. I understand that the decision to buy handmade objects is more than just an economic decision, but a political one. By creating durable kitchenware I am creating compelling objects for use in the home and building a more just economy and appreciation for craft. Visit my website at www.oguskyceramics.com

Joan Schwartz:

I work in a variety of 3D and 2D media, and it is only recently that I have begun to make functional pottery. My sculpture reflects my interest in the interaction of space and form, inside and outside, body and spirit, and the nexus of science, technology, and art. As a former dancer I am drawn to the nuance of gesture and the ability of the body to communicate through subtle changes of position. As a writer who reports on the results of contemporary scientific research I am fascinated by the endless complexity of relationships in the natural world. As a lover of mythology and the stories and art of indigenous people throughout the world I see a continuous process of — human, plant, animal — and elemental forces — earth, air, sky, and water.

I finish non-functional pieces with multiple washes of oil paint, building subtle layers of color as the pigment is absorbed into the body of the fired clay. Although my starting point is often a live model, I generally work with only a single body part or portion of the torso and allow the growing sculpture to transform, turning inward, changing direction, elongating, or contracting, to follow the inner logic of its own creation. My sitting figures grow from my own experience in meditation practice.

My site responsive installations respond not only to their immediate physical environment, but also to the time and space in which we live. Increasingly I am drawn to use recycled and recyclable materials to point to the enormous amount of needless consumption in our daily lives. You can see my work at: <http://studioswithoutwalls.org/joans>

Christine Shadic

Christine fell in love with clay when she was about eight years old, when celebrating a friend's birthday. She visited a pottery near her home town where she watched the potter work on her wheel. From that moment, she was hooked!

After doing a little clay in high school, she went on to study ceramics at Potsdam College in upstate New York. Several years later, she moved to the Boston area and started working at the Potters Shop and School in Needham where she was an assistant studio manager. She taught classes for children and adults at the studio and also in the Newton schools as part of their after-school program.

Christine became a member of Feet of Clay in 2001. She is still teaching adult classes along with selling her work at local shows and sales.

Jane Simon:

I have loved clay ever since elementary school where I regularly dipped my fists into 2 big copper-colored tins of moist, earthy grey and red clay. I could squeeze, flatten, scrape or cut it whatever shape or form that pleased me.

After graduating art school, I took a class in ceramics where I learned to center the clay and make functional pieces that could be used as eating vessels. At the time I was learning about clay and ceramics, I was working as a graphic designer at a newspaper and was fascinated with applying black and white graphic designs onto the surface of the clay. I continued learning and working at the Radcliffe Studio for most of the 1980s. It was an exciting place to share space and ideas with lots of talented ceramic artists.

I've been interested in ceramics of the ancient Americas for a long time and had a chance in the mid 1990's to travel to Cajamarca, Peru where I learned how ceramic artists there made their own clay, colorings and Pre-Colombian replicas. I now work at the Feet of Clay studio making hand built and wheel- thrown ceramics and continue to freelance design work.

Jennifer Wyman:

Jenn has been practicing pottery since 1996. Born in Houston, Texas, she began ceramics at the University of North Texas and received a BFA in studio art at the University of Texas at Arlington. She has studied traditional pottery in both Ghana and Ethiopia. She has been teaching ceramics for five years, teaching wheelthrowing, handbuilding and glaze chemistry. She taught at the Boston Center for Adult Education, at the Dorchester Center for the Visual Arts and now at Feet of Clay Pottery.