

# Belinda Gabryl

## Biography

Belinda Gabryl is an international, award winning artist who has worked in clay for over 25 years. She won an honorable award at the Mino Japan Festival and a Purchase Award from the Everson Art Museum, and her work has been collected worldwide. She earned an MFA in ceramics with a minor in Meso-American art history from the University of Texas at Austin. Since moving to the Providence, RI area in 1984, she has continuously taught college ceramics and design, maintained a private studio, and marketed her work throughout the U.S. Since 1998 she has concentrated on ceramic sculpture and unique clay designs while teaching at Eastern Connecticut State University.

## Statement

I have principally worked in clay throughout my entire career because I find this medium best accommodates my interests in the relationship between surface and form. Clay is, of course, infinitely malleable, but it is the surface treatment that establishes the character and idea of each piece. Early in my career I used raku and saggar firing techniques on both organic and industrial forms to capture the effect of weather and natural forces. In Providence I focused on low fire glazes, color, and more whimsical effects although the environmental influence of the Southwest persisted. Most typical of this period was my tornado teaware which was featured in *Ceramics Monthly* and collected by several museums, including the Everson Museum. The figurative sculptures developed for the Attleboro Museum signify a new artistic direction. I have often worked in larger sculptural forms but never the figure. I am still, however, fascinated with surface and in these figurative pieces the surface is clay itself--terra sigulatta. Terra sigulatta has a natural purity and warmth that glazes and glass lack and a luster that invites contact. My surface treatments also continue to play with animation and they imbue the figures with an aura of mystery and myth. There are allusions to images and ideas derived from both traditional western and ancient Meso-American forms. Influences can also be traced to my experiences with the cultures of the Southwest during my formative and College years. Each piece is constructed from extruded clay tubes which permits flexibility and spontaneity in the construction of the forms. As I progressed through this series, the forms became larger and structurally more complicated. The use of the glass marbles is another surface variation and is my homage to glaze. Glaze is a specially formulated form of glass that is designed to fuse with a clay surface. The glass marbles make this hidden element transparent but color is introduced in a manner that appears both separate from and integral to the glass. This technique animates the surface and alters the appearance of the figure with the movement of the viewer. It is the combination of these elements--figure, surface, myth, and media--that ultimately gives each piece its unique coherence.



Belinda Gabryl, *Line in the Sand*, DATE?, Clay, Terra Sigulatta, Glaze, 15" x 12" x 10"

## Resume

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1997- Instructor of Art- Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT. (Adjunct) Courses: Ceramics, 3-D Design, Surface Design and Drawing
- 1997-2008 Instructor of Art- Quinebaug Valley Community College Danielson, Ct. (Adjunct)  
Courses: Ceramics 1 & Ceramic Sculpture.
- 1996-1998 Instructor of Ceramics- Attleboro Museum  
Ceramics Instructor Beginning and Advanced
- 1988-1997 Instructor of Art- Rhode Island College, Providence, R.I. (Adjunct)  
Courses: ceramics, 1, 2 & adv.; 2-D & 3-D design.
- 1983-1988 Instructor of Art- Salve Regina College, Newport, R.I. (Adjunct)  
Courses: ceramics, 2-D design and art appreciation.
- 1984-1985 Instructor of Art- Rhode Island College, Providence, R.I. (Sabbatical replacement).  
Courses: ceramics.
- 1978-1983 Instructor of Art- Brookhaven College, Dallas, Texas.  
Coordinator for the 3-D Design Department.  
Primary courses: ceramics, sculpture, 3-D design, and drawing. Secondary courses: 2-D design and art history.
- 1976-1978 Instructor of Art- The University of Texas at Austin. (Teaching Assistant)  
Courses: 2-D Design

### EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Ceramics- The University of Texas at Austin  
B.F.A. in Studio Art- The University of Texas at Austin

### AWARDS

- 2004 Eastern Connecticut State University Excellence in Teaching Award.  
Eastern Connecticut State University Faculty Research Grant.
- 1975 Ford Foundation Grant

### PUBLICATIONS and PAPERS

Emmanuel Copper Ten Thousand Years of Pottery University of Pennsylvania Press 2000.  
Norman Kolpas. A Cup of Coffee. N.Y.: Grove Press, 1993.  
Charlotte Speights. Hands In Clay. Mountain View, CA.: Mayfield Pub. Co., 1989.  
Barbara Perry, ed. American Ceramics: Collection of Everson Museum of Art. N.Y.; Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 1989.  
John Martin, et al. "Emerging Talent at the NCECA '88 Conference." NCECA Journal, Vol. 9, Winter '88-'89.  
"Emerging Talent" Workshop/Presentation, NCECA Conference, Portland, Oregon, 1988.  
Artist's Talk, DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, MA., associated with "American Ceramics Now" traveling show.  
"Forms, Forces and Fantasies," paper presented at the UAW Conference, Boston, MA, May 2, 1987.  
Ceramics Monthly, October 1986.

### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Art League of Rhode Island

### VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

Attleboro Art Museum, Member of the Board  
Foundry Artists

### COLLECTIONS

Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts, Racine WI.  
Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY  
University of Texas at Austin, School of Business  
Texas Women's University, Denton, Texas  
Southeast Arkansas Arts & Science Center, Pine Bluff, Ark.  
Miller Ceramics Inc., Weedsport, New York.  
Institute for Design and Experimental Art, Sacramento, CA.

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2008 Art Ambassadors, Group Show, Palacio de Torre Tangle, Lima, Peru
- 2007 Charlestown Gallery, Group Show, Charlestown R.I.
- 2006 Selections- Art League of Rhode Island, Hera Gallery, Wakefield, R.I.
- 2005 Newport Art Museum, Juried member show, Newport, RI
- 2004 Potters of Newport County, Newport R.I. Invitational
- 2003 Attleboro Museum Members Show, Attleboro, M.A.
- 2002 For your Collection, invitational, Attleboro Museum, Attleboro MA.  
Sense and Language, Faculty show Eastern Connecticut University, Willamantic, CT.  
The Chosen Ones, invitational Montreal, Canada
- 1997 Animal Crackers, invitational, Carlyn Gallery, Dallas TX..
- 1996 Group Show, invitational, production work, Witt& Witt Gallery, Boca Raton, FL.
- 1995 Teapots, invitational, Gallery Alexander, Oija,CA.  
Teapot Show, invitational, Pinch Pottery Ferrin Gallery, Northampton,MA.
- 1994 Holiday Show, invitational, The Toledo Museum of Art Museum store, Toledo, OH.
- 1993 A Tea Party, invitational, National Museum of Ceramic Art. Baltimore, MD.  
Totally Teapots, invitational, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 1992 Cup: as Metaphor, invitational, Sybaris Gallery, Royal Oak, MI.  
A Tea Party, Chicago New Arts Exposition. Ferrin Gallery, Chicago IL.  
The Ceremony of Drinking, invitational, Lill Street Gallery, Chicago, IL.
- 1991 Cups: Form Function, Fantasy, invitational, Wild Blue Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.
- 1990 Old Church Cultural Center Art Exhibition, invitational by Karen Karnes, Demarast, NJ.
- 1989 Clay USA, juried exhibition, Flossie Martin Gallery, Radford University, Richmond, VA.  
Imagery on Clay-Different Approaches, Peaches en Regalia Gallery, Kansas City, MO.  
CIC Artists Past and Present, Attleboro Museum, Attleboro, MA.
- 1988 American Ceramics Now, traveling show, DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, MA  
Form vs Function in Rhode Island Arts and Crafts, Warwick Museum, Warwick, RI.  
Teapots Second Pouring, invitational, Elizabeth Fortner Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA  
Desert Tea, invitational, Incorporated Gallery, NYC.  
A Tea Party, invitational, 9th Annual Teapot Exhibition, Ferrin Gallery, Northampton, MA.  
Old Church Cultural Center Art Exhibition, invitational by Karen Karnes, Demarast, NJ.  
Faculty Show, Salve Regina College, Newport, RI.
- 1987 American Ceramics Now, National Juried Show, Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY Purchase  
Award, Permanent Collection  
Images of All Hallow's Eve, Redding Museum, Redding, CA.  
Old Church and Cultural Center Art Exhibition, Invitational by Karen Karnes, Demarast, NJ
- 1986 The 1st International Ceramics Contest '86 Mino, Japan, Tajimi City, Japan. Honorable Mention  
Space: New Form, New Function, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN.  
Rhode Island Clay Invitational, Salve Regina College, Newport, RI.  
Clay U.S.A. National Ceramic Exhibition, Radford University, Radford, VA. Award for  
Excellence, cash award  
American Ceramic National, Institute for Design and Experimental Art, Sacramento, CA. Purchase  
Award.  
A.R.T. National Claybox Show, A.R.T. Studio Clay Company, Elk Grove, IL. Purchase Award.  
The Clay Cup Show, National Show, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL. Amaco Clay  
Company Award.
- 1985 Prints and Pots, Invitational Show, Newport Art Museum, Newport, R.I.  
Clay Treasures '85 National Invitational Show, Pinch Pottery, Northampton, Mass
- 1984 Macabre, Gallery One, 75 John Street, Providence, R.I. Providence, R.I.  
Rhode Island Bi-Annual Faculty Show, Bannister Gallery,
- 1983 Raid on CIC, University of Rhode Island Extension, Providence, R.I.  
New Directions in Clay, University of Houston, Houston, Texas.
- 1982 Solo Exhibition of Clay Sculpture, Moming Dance and Arts Center, Chicago, Ill  
Texas Invitational Sculpture Exhibition, Pensacola Junior College, Pensacola, Fla.  
10 Southwest Potters, The Clay Pot Gallery, Park Slope, Brooklyn, New York.  
Group Show, East Texas State University Gallery, Commerce, Texas.  
Women in Craft Invitational, Dallas Craft Guild, Richland College, Dallas, Texas
- 1981 Third Texas Sculpture Symposium Exhibition, Southwest  
Texas State University Art Gallery, San Marcos, Texas.

- 1980 Craft Guild of Dallas, Fiber and Clay Exhibition, Richland College, Dallas, Texas.  
Containers-1980, Indiana Designer Craftsmen Exhibition, Fort Wayne, Ind  
It's About Time, Worcester Craft Center, Worcester,MA.  
Big Name Invitational, Exposition 500 Gallery, Dallas, Texas.
- 1979 Twelfth Annual Prints, Drawing and Crafts Exhibition, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, Arkansas.  
Third Annual Cone Box Show, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. Purchase Award.
- 1978 What is a Tree?, Invitational, D.W.Gallery, Dallas,Tx.
- 1977 Tenth Annual Artists Exhibition, Southeast Arkansas Arts and Science Center, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.  
Purchase Award.  
All Media Competition, Houston Art League, 2 Houston Center, Houston, Texas.  
Painting and Sculpture Exhibition, Sequin Art Center, Seguin, Texas.
- 1976 Northwest International Small Format Print Exhibition,  
Davidson Galleries, Seattle, Washington.  
Museum of the Southwest All Media Show, Corpus Christie,Texas. Honorable Mention.  
Abilene Fine Arts Museum Painting and Prints Exhibition, Abilene, Texas. Purchase Award.  
Texas Ceramic Exhibition, Star of the Republic Museum, Washington, Texas.