

## Artist's Statement Sample: Keith Grabowsky

Since a young age, I sculpted things out of anything that I could manipulate with my hands. I loved painting as well, but I've chosen to work with clay because painting seemed too limiting. Pairing sculptural form with surface decoration satisfies these two urges.

I begin the majority of my sculptural pieces on the wheel as symmetrical, cylindrical forms. Then I allow gravity and centrifugal force to take over and manipulate the clay while the form is still on the wheel, embracing the element of chance that happens—finding the balance between planned and unplanned. There's an element of excitement in not knowing the outcome of each piece,

The resulting asymmetrical forms are the foundation of each sculptural piece, and after I see the interesting lines emerge, I stop the wheel and manipulate the piece by hand, accentuating and pushing the forms to the limit—both conceptually and structurally.

Once the form is established, I turn to the surface patterning. I love vibrant, bright colors. Since my works are eventually raku-fired, I am able to add another layer of chance to the work.

I often work in series because it gives me the structure and focus I need. I am constantly absorbing ideas from magazines, books, and the Internet. I love generating new ideas from existing ones; it's a collaborative process.

Ceramists Grayson Perry and Juan Kaneko are inspirational to my work in the areas of surface decoration and large-scale ceramics, respectively. I admire architect Frank Gehry's work as well, because his forms express movement and line so beautifully.

I also create functional work, which affords me the opportunity to keep fine-tuning and advancing my skills, while the reward of the sculptural work is delving deep into my imagination, pulling out ideas, and developing them.