

Gary Beaumont Ceramic Artist

Artist Biography

I am currently exploring several themes under the general category of what I call “glaze painting.”

The first theme is “Four Square.” Each piece is four, large porcelain tiles in a frame with a square in the center. Using a variety of glazes produces textures and colors in what I think is a unique way. The shape in the center is unmistakable to the eye as a square, but it’s a very “soft” square because of how the glazes interact, adding to the visual appeal.

The second theme is the nude figure. Again the pieces use a variety of glazes that produce texture and color. Unlike a painting, the artist gets only one shot at the image because of the glazing and firing process. So there is no way to adjust the image by adding more paint, which adds to the spontaneity of the piece. In the end, the kiln “decides” how the piece will turn out.

The third theme is darker ... Corpses. My nude images came first. When I was looking at the texture on these pieces, they reminded me of the images I have seen of bog bodies or Pompeiian copses dug up by archaeologists. I simply had to recreate the feeling. The images are of people frozen in time and turned back into something from the earth ... Fitting because all ceramic materials come from the earth too.

Finally, the fourth theme is the platter. It takes years of experience to produce a technically sound platter. Not everyone can do it. I love making these pieces. In the end, however, they are an excuse to create pieces with color and texture. Hanging them on the wall turns them into “paintings.”

Artist CV

Education

Bachelor’s of Science, Communications (R-TV), University of Illinois, 1971
Master’s of Arts, Speech Communications, University of Illinois, 1974

Experience

I have had a life-long interest in art, starting my college career in architecture. However, my time in college spanned 1966 through 1972, which was a tumultuous time. Somehow, I decided that architecture was no longer important, and in 1969 decided to switch my major to communications.

Still I took advantage of local educational opportunities to study ceramics over the years. In the mid-1970s I took all of the ceramic courses available to me at the University of Illinois and learned to throw from Don Pilcher. Then after a family and a 35-year career at the university, I retired and started a second career as a ceramic artist. First I interned with Michael Schwegmann in his studio in Champaign, Illinois. Then I took studio ceramics from Tammie Rubin at the University of Illinois.

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Juried Recognition:

- 2004 Illinois Artisans Program
- 2006 New Hampshire Institute of Art, Biennial Clay Exhibit
- 2007 Illinois State Fair, Professional Artists Exhibit
- 2007 Roswell Fine Arts League, 24th Juried Show
- 2008 Genesee Center for Arts, History in the Making
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- 2011 Dunedin Arts, Crystalline Exhibition
- 2011 22nd Teapot Show, Chiaroscuro Gallery
- 2012 Nellie Allen Smith Competition, Cape Fear Studios
- 2013 Baltimore Clayworks, 100 Teapots VI
- 2013 2nd Biennial Iowa Clay Exhibit, River to River
- 2015 "Putting the Pieces Together," Baltimore Clay Works
 - "Toe the Line"
- 2015 "Crystals and Craters," Featured Artist, Illinois Artisans Gallery, Chicago
- 2015 Around the Block, Giertz Gallery, Parkland College
 - Crater Bottle
- 2015 Timeshare, Figure One, University of Illinois (Invitational)
- 2016 Nude Night, Tampa, Florida
 - Nude in a Box
 - Three-peat Feet
- 2016 Shapes of Influence 2016, Springfield Art Association, Springfield, Illinois
 - Planetary Platter, Earthenware
- 2016 Rare Earth National Ceramic Exhibition, Cabrillo gallery, California
 - Four Square: Blue Blood
- 2016 Ceramic Tile 2016, Pewabic, Detroit, Michigan
 - Galactic Quadrants
- 2017 Springfield Art Association, juried artist
- 2017 R.G. Endres Gallery, Prairie Village, Kansas
 - Planetary Platters, dual show
- Craft League of Champaign-Urbana, juried into the Holiday Show 2012-16