

Valerie dearing

Valerie was born into a family of artists in the midwest. Her mother and grandmother both studied painting in college and exhibited it throughout their lives. Valerie studied fiber art and ceramics at the Cranbrook Academy of Art (BFA) in Bloomfield hills MI, and fiber art and sculpture the University of Michigan School of Art (MFA) in Ann Arbor MI. She taught art in numerous colleges, art centers, and elementary schools around the US, Mexico & India.

Currently, Valerie hand builds clay vessels using ancient low-fire techniques of pit firing and Raku and also uses more traditional mid -fire glazes as well. She made a sculptural series called Shaman Totems after hiking in a burned out area in the Anza-Borrego desert of south eastern California. There were hundreds of human shaped cholla cactus that had suffered through the fire and were still living by sprouting new growth through the blackened cactus trunks. They looked like shamans. She is also working on a series of pieces called "Erosion". These are organic shaped spherical sculptures showing the interior and exterior of the pieces using tunnels and holes. The textured glazes, stains, and underglazes are then smoked in the pit. This work references the erosion of the earth by volcanic activity, earthquakes, floods, and wildfires as well as the erosion of society by the disrespect and exploitation of the natural world by its humans.

Find out
more about
Valerie's
work

