

Huellas

Rosa M. Torres
Artist Statement

My sculptures are inspired by the Spanish architecture in Puerto Rico, the United States, and Latin America. I grew up in Puerto Rico and have spent half my adult life living on the East Coast of the United States. My sense of self, as an individual, developed as I walked these locations. I find old buildings that are neglected and in disrepair to be alluring, as they embody the passage of time and place. Their beauty and geometry are inviting and reverent of the environment around them.

I use various clay bodies and hand-building techniques to create geometric sculptures. I make my stamps featuring symbols of places I have lived in to create a sense of place on the surface of the forms. The sculptures are finished with terra sigillatas, patinas, and oxide washes, and fired in raku, electric, or wood-fired kilns.

Taino Indian symbols represent my culture, heritage, and the legacy of the thousands of people living in Spanish-colonized regions. We are a mix of races and cultures from different places and times, which creates a dynamic society. My roots guide my perspective and influence my memories. As I work on my sculptures, the clay in my hands gives form to the shapes that reside in my mind.