

ARTIST STATEMENT

This Love Letter is for my son, my girls, and all the young people opening their hearts and minds to understand how to become part of this world. Humans must be respectful of nature, observe the rhythms of the seasons, plants, and animals that coexist with us, connect with all other people as we work to make a positive impact in the lives of others, learn how to be grateful for the little and the big things in our lives; and, more importantly, learn to listen to our hearts so that the decisions we make are based on compassion, love, and the sacredness of life.

Learning about the positive psychological impact and the feeling of peacefulness experienced when we are in nature motivated me to create the work for this exhibition. My oldest child is a senior in high school this year, and I find myself needing to remind him about the values I hold near to my heart, hoping that he carries them with him as he prepares to start a new stage of his life.

I am a woman and artist influenced by my connections to the environment and connections to people, especially my family. I grew up in Colombia. Since I was a teenager, I have researched indigenous cosmovision and their teachings on the importance of becoming one with Mother Earth. I married my loving partner twenty years ago and became the mother of four wonderful children. I have been fascinated by nature's structures, patterns, shapes, endless colors, and the networks that support all living things.

A year ago, I had the opportunity to climb a mountain in Colombia and visit the oldest ruins of the Tairona community. This experience led to clay work referencing ideas and details found on the surface of seeds, trunks, and leaves. The trip stimulated my desire to highlight through clay and the wood firing process the beauty of nature with its complex forms, to bring attention to the fundamental principles of the indigenous teachings, and to call attention to the importance of connecting with people through our hearts.

I started wood firing four years ago as part of my artist journey. Since the first time I had the opportunity to be part of the process, I fell in love with the aesthetics of the work and the collaborative experience of firing with others. Fire and wind travel through the kiln to chemically and physically transform earth and water. All the elements are combined to produce beautiful results. By working with nature's gifts, woodfire potters can achieve the marks of the flame and the ash dancing through their work.

The aesthetic qualities of seeds, particularly those from Colombia, Maryland, and Texas, are represented throughout my exhibition. These seeds, for the most part, are open. They will become a new tree, full of ideas and knowledge that make each unique. The small, closed seeds are still transforming and growing within themselves, grasping and processing all the information they get to nourish them and help them develop into the unique trees they will one day become.