

Artist Statement

Annie Boyer

Welcome to Nixie Hollow, a place in time after humans are no longer present on earth. The setting of this body of work is in Nixie Hollow, an abandoned farm where fantastic creatures and plant life have risen from the ashes, floods and nuclear fallout from irresponsible human stewardship of the earth. The otherworldly creatures roam the hollow and make homes in the ramshackle home, the barn and the surrounding hollow.

The creatures can be cute and appealing or have a dark side. The narratives include societies, family and social interactions, along with ritual behaviors. The aim of this work is to invoke curiosity as the viewer observes the creatures in their worlds as well as offer hope for rebirth on our earth.

While primarily hand-built ceramic, this body of work also includes other elements such as felt, yarn, wire, polymer clay and found objects with the goal of synthesizing the wide variety of interests and skills the artist has acquired over a long artistic career. Stoneware, porcelain and low fire clays are used, with multiple applications of underglaze, slips and glaze, then electric fired. The inclusion of fiber materials enhances the textures and surface of each creature in a way that clay alone can not accomplish. Cold finishes such as acrylic, watercolor, oil paint, lusters and flocking are also used to further add detail and interest to the pieces.

The inspiration for this work came from early experiences living in the deep woods, exploring the dark canopy and weird creatures tucked away under rocks. Time spent later on a farm and plant nursery further established a strong connection to the natural world and its wonders.