



## REBECCA E. OLDS

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With the evolution of the self, one's artwork evolves as well. As an artist I observe this process firsthand. Never having taken an art class until two years ago, I always enjoyed the process of creating work with my own hands. Hoping to become a biological researcher, I only registered for an art class as a requirement for graduation. With each medium I have been exposed to, my interest has grown, and I am finding that three-dimensional art is most enjoyable to me. The process of building, forming, designing, creating with my hands brings me internal peace, and sets me free.

Much of my current work revolves around Buddhist philosophies. The Buddha had to work unimaginably hard and faced many challenges to obtain enlightenment. However, it was from within that he found the motivation to dedicate himself to becoming enlightened. Similarly, my goals and ideas for my art are what motivate me from within. In creating my work, is my form of meditation. The more I practice, the closer I become to achieving a level of enlightenment in both my personal and professional life. My work, influenced by my life, is fresh and natural. Bringing to its social themes, positive disposition, compassion, and honesty. All of the Buddha figures I create are the "fat and jolly, laughing" or post-enlightenment, Buddha. The figure represents fulfillment and nirvana, both of which are feelings that I get from the process of creating.

My medium of choice has been ceramics. Clay is a tough medium for me, and yet, so versatile. I have created sculptural pieces that have been fired with the Raku process and this process taught me to give up some control of my art in the firing. The individual glazes for Raku never come out of the kiln the exact same way twice, and I enjoy the lack of control that I have over the process. Unexpected results can be quite beautiful. I also enjoy using and creating my own high-fire glazes for functional wheel-thrown pieces. I enjoy making my own recipes for glazes to create unique colors and glosses. There is great diversity with my ceramic pieces between shapes, forms, surfaces, and size, and I am excited to continue practicing and perfecting my ceramic skills, and seeing how my art evolves.

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Rebecca Olds