



Artist Biography and Statement Marianne Cordyack

Marianne Cordyack is a professional potter and pottery teacher, living in Reston, Virginia. She has a Masters degree with a concentration in Ceramics from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia. and a BA degree in Art from Hood College, Frederick, Maryland. She has also studied ceramics at Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Maine.

Marianne taught art at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston for 8 years before she resigned in 1996 to begin her own art school. She taught art and ceramics classes from her studio to adults and children until 2004 when she began to focus more on her own work. Currently she teaches ceramics classes at Reston Community Center and also Firing workshops for potters who would like to experience salt-firing their work.

Marianne produces functional and sculptural pottery inspired by natural forms and colors. She throws her work on a potter's wheel and often alters it into work for garden display as well as daily use. She sells her work locally at The Artists' Undertaking Gallery in Occoquan, craft festivals, guild and studio sales.

She and her husband, John, have been living in Reston since 1972. They have two grown children and 3 grandchildren.

Statement

In 2002 I built a propane-fired salt kiln at my West Virginia studio. The results have been exciting. This particular type of firing technique contributes to uniquely warm, variegated, and complex surfaces on the fired clay. I feel these surfaces compliment the forms I make for outdoor display and daily use. There is also an element of serendipity with salt firings that is very appealing to me. I appreciate the mystical collaboration between my hands and the work of the "kiln gods" in completing each piece. The motivation for my continued work with clay is the people who enjoy my claywork. I love knowing that someone drinks their morning coffee from one of my mugs or places one of my garden birds in among their flowers!