photo by Teddy McCrea

Just about everything inspires me, but ultimately, it is the art of creating itself that is the biggest inspiration. I work all the time, and I find that more work inspires more work. Each piece interconnects with previous ones, and they all have in common a pursuit of beauty and simplicity. The more I immerse myself in the world of beauty and creation, the more I want to create; it has become an insatiable desire.

Occasionally my customers will share with me their experiences of living with my decorative pieces or functional work. This is always touching to me, as I put a lot of myself into each piece. To hear how the beauty of the work affects people is humbling.

One of the favorite comments about my functional work came from a child who noticed a small porcelain bowl in the studio. “Look mommy,” she cried, “It’s just like the bowl we all fight over!” How happy I felt to know how much they all loved their bowl and how prized it was. I like to imagine that starting their day eating cereal from a bowl I made brought an element of beauty to their morning routine and so set the tone for the day. Inspiring.

*You make both functional and decorative art pieces. Do you prefer making one over the other?*

These days I divide my time between the 2 kinds of work. I find the decorative pieces to be more taxing emotionally and so when I start to feel overwhelmed by it all I switch back to working on my functional wares. To me, working

photo by Tony Puerzer

on the functional pieces is very relaxing and helps me to unwind from the intensity of the other work I do.

For my decorative vessels I have developed glazes that can imbue my work with the look of unearthed antiquities. For my functional ware, I use glazes in a variety of solid colors designed with the user in mind.

*What are you most proud of in your life?*

In my work life I am most proud of having realized my teenage dream of becoming a potter and supporting myself solely through my art. I never had a clue that I was an artist when I was young, realizing that I had become one was a pivotal moment in my life, I am proud of what I grew into.

*What advise would you give to upcoming potters?*

If you really are serious about doing pottery/ceramic art for a living be prepared to work hard. One of the most important things to keep in mind is, this is your job, so treat it like one. Set your hours and stick to them. Always self promote, don't wait for your galleries to do this for you. Set your goals and peddle relentlessly towards them....and finally, take time to experiment, don't let what sells rule.

photo by Teddy McCrea