

## Artist Statement- Clay Vessels

Laura Carpenter

Humans connect to nature directly through food. We depend on the earth to provide us with that which we need. Too often, this gift from nature goes unacknowledged in our society. We have come to live under the illusion that we don't need nature anymore; that we don't depend on the earth for our survival. If people stopped to recognize our dependence and were grateful for the gifts of the earth, we would care more about protecting it. These bowls made of clay and earthen glazes are meant to represent our connection to the earth through food. When a person eats out of a handmade bowl, they stop to think about the act of eating. They hold the bowl in their hands and they appreciate the food that it serves. The art of these bowls is not the designs carved on the surface, but the space within that gives people reason to slow down their process of eating, transforming us from a fast food society to a society that thinks about their food and appreciates it. By acknowledging our dependence on the earth for food, we are humbled by our inability to survive outside of the natural cycles of nature. Let these bowls be a symbol of daily thanksgiving for what the earth gives us. Let us celebrate nature's gifts and be glad for them!

*"Eating with the fullest pleasure - pleasure, that is, that does not depend on ignorance - is perhaps the profoundest enactment of our connection with the world. In this pleasure we experience our dependence and our gratitude, for we are living in a mystery, from creatures we did not make and powers we cannot comprehend."*

- Wendell Berry



**Clay Bowls on display.**

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