

Larry Elardo

I jumped back into making ceramics 10 years ago after a 30+ year hiatus. My work is mostly hand built and my fellow potters often refer to me as “the texture guy.” I love the infinite possibilities of clay. The functional clay objects I build investigate the integration of form and surface. I’m always on the lookout for objects both man-made and natural that will create great surfaces.

I feel that my garden pieces are most successful when they look as if they have just popped up from the soil like the plants around them. To this end I try to keep my designs simple, angular and geometric, providing a contrast of form in the otherwise curved line world of plants. My palate is close to the earth, allowing the natural unglazed color of a dark clay body to serve as the background for bright accents of color.

I strive in all of my work to create a visual “touch factor” where the viewer is so drawn into the complex surfaces of the work that they are compelled to reach out and touch the piece. There is a “doodling” kind of stream of consciousness about the way that I create surfaces, probably owing to the fact that most of my “art training” is in drawing and painting.

I use many different clay bodies and each has qualities that suggest different approaches to what I make. I love porcelain for the “coral” series. The natural bright white of the unglazed clay body is a great match for simulating sun bleached coral. White and tan stoneware are great hand building clays that record impressed textures quit faithfully.

I am currently teaching at the Essex Arts Center in Lawrence, MA. and Two Rivers Ceramics Studio in Byfield, MA.

My work is available at shows including Craft Boston and DeCordova Museum’s “Art in the Park.”

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