



# The Slip Trail

**Summer 2014**

**New Mexico Potters & Clay Artists**

*"..to promote excellence and creativity in the clay arts, and to further their understanding and appreciation throughout New Mexico...."*

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## Letter from the President

Hello New Mexico Potters & Clay Artist members,

I wanted to let you know a little about myself, I am new to the ceramic community and have lived in Albuquerque all my life. This is my third year on the board and for the past two years I have been the eNews editor. I am eager to take on a new position as the president of the group. I hope over the next couple of years to have an opportunity to meet more of the membership. I have learned a lot about the community as the eNews editor, and in this letter I hope you will learn more about me. Being in a family business, working and living side by side, it works best when we communicate and understand the needs of each family member. I hope I can bring a sense of community and family to the group and serve you well as the president.

I wanted to let you know about current activities for our group. This spring and early summer have been very eventful. Currently we have the Celebration of Clay exhibit on display at Ghost Ranch Museum. The opening reception was Saturday, July 5th. It was a beautiful drive seeing the NM landscape and keeping an eye on the storm clouds above. As we drove into Ghost Ranch there was a light shower which made for a cool beautiful day. The opening reception was very nice, lots of members talking and viewing the beautiful works. I want to thank Betsy Williams, for taking the time and being our award juror for this year's Celebration of Clay. I hope you will have the time to visit Ghost Ranch during the month of July to see the exhibit. Voting will continue online at [www.celebrationofclay.com](http://www.celebrationofclay.com) until July 25.

June was a very busy month for us we had our annual meeting and our first social gathering of the year. The two events were very enjoyable, the annual meeting was held at New Mexico Clay. Our host Brant Palley was very gracious in lending us his space and giving us a tour of his facility. Also at the annual meeting we did a potluck and pottery exchange everything was very nice. Who knew making pottery and cooking went hand in hand. We elected three new board members, Nik Back, Andrew McCollom and Myriam Tapp. Please help me in welcoming them to the board. You should be hearing more from these individuals as the year progresses.

At the end of June was our Albuquerque Garden Social. We want to thank Mary Sharp Davis for hosting the event at her home in the South Valley. She has a beautiful home with lovely gardens which made it a very cool afternoon. In this issue we will hear from Judith Richey, sharing with us her experience of the event. As I talk to members, they like the camaraderie and I get a feeling from the members that these are the type of events they enjoy the most. So I hope we can have more of these types of gathering as the year goes on.

Our next event is the Ghost Ranch workshop. The name of this year's workshop is "Gallimaufry 2014" and will feature 6 different presenters. The dates are Sept.

Send info for the Slip Trail to:

Christina Sullo, Slip Trail Editor  
Sliptrail@nmpotters.org

Deadline for the October issue is  
September 23.

12th – 14th. I look forward to the workshops every year and I have had the opportunity to attend the last three years. The workshop is held in Pot Hollow which has blossomed in to a great space. I love the outdoors and being able to create and learn more about ceramics in this space is why I enjoy this group. I get to meet the members, learn more about their craft which has really helped me develop my skills. I look forward to attending this year's workshop and I hope you do as well. Our Vice President Judy Nelson-Moore and Barbara Campbell have been working hard to put the workshop together. There are more details in this issue about the workshop. Registration will close at the end of this month.

Empty bowls is an event we all hold dear as potters that allows us to give back to other people less fortunate. We want to thank Michal Thornton for his year of service to this event and to Claire Lissance who continues to work hard. This will be Claire's last year and she is looking for someone in our community to continue the work. I have asked Claire to give us insight to the work needed and how it helps Project Share. Please read the inside article.

I would like to encourage you to be more active in our group. We have many opportunities and ways to communicate. The Slip Trail is a place where you can tell us more in-depth about your activities and we would love to hear your stories to keeping us focused on clay and clay events. Our weekly eNews we use for current events and notices, we also use Facebook as a visual look at our community, and the blog gives good stories and articles to share with our friends. The Clay Studio Tour is a great source of information to find a clay artist and learn more about their work. Please email me or call me if you would like to talk and share your ideas with the membership.

Leonard Baca  
[leonard@bpsabq.com](mailto:leonard@bpsabq.com)  
 (505) 480-8292 cell

**Gallimaufry: Ghost Ranch Workshop,  
 September 12-14**

Register by July 31, 2014 at [nmpotters.org](http://nmpotters.org)  
 (<http://nmpotters.org/event-907168>)

Apply for scholarship by July 20, 2014 at [nmpotters.org](http://nmpotters.org)  
 (<http://nmpotters.org/event-906798>)

Details on page 6.

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## Celebration of Clay at the Ellis Museum of Anthropology- 2014, Another View.

By Tomás Wolff

It is not often that you find an art show located in an anthropology museum out in the high desert! So, it might have seemed quite unusual when people first learned that this year's "Celebration of Clay" show organized by the New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists (NMPCA) is now being held at the Florence Hawley Ellis Museum of Anthropology at Ghost Ranch for the entire month of July.

Of course the NMPCA has had a long relationship with Ghost Ranch, which, as many of us know, is a fabulous education and retreat center just northwest of Abiquiu, New Mexico. Not only are the workshops intriguing with courses in art, philosophy and history, but the landscape is otherworldly. That's probably why Georgia O'Keeffe spent her time painting rather than writing about the multicolored cliffs and stark landscapes. It is also the perfect place for clay artists, since the area is surrounded by red and purple clay mounds that once drew many of the early native inhabitants to the area.

In fact, it was Florence Ellis (after whom the museum is named) who discovered an archeological site near the ranch that "rocked the world of anthropology in 1931", according to Lesley Poling-Kempes in her book, *Ghost Ranch*. Poling-Kempes writes, "Dr. Ellis assured everyone that what had just happened-- the finding of so many entire ceramic pots hidden in a lava field--never happens. It was a remarkable site to have stumbled upon." ([www.ghost ranch.org](http://www.ghost ranch.org)).

So there, you see! The ghosts (or perhaps spirits) of old pots still permeates through the anthropology museum there. Many of these ancient pots are displayed behind glass cases, and that is why it is an appropriate place to have a show of modern clay pots and sculptures. The gods of clay are calling.

This year's annual Celebration of Clay took the theme, "Water for Life," and most of the submitted works by member artists reflected the importance of water, especially here in New Mexico. I decided to see the show a few days before the opening on July 5 because it was more convenient for my schedule, and because I wanted to review the works prior to the official judging.

The judging was in the capable hands of Betsy Williams, a long time NMPCA member and co-owner of The Rift Gallery. (See Betsy's article on page 10) As Betsy states on her web site ([www.enbistudio.com](http://www.enbistudio.com)), "In my work I am searching for just the right kind of imperfection--a balance between subtlety and self-expression, minimalism and warmth, delicacy and usability, tradition and originality." After reviewing her picks ([www.celebrationofclay.com/awards](http://www.celebrationofclay.com/awards)), it seems to me that she used this same set of values in assessing the show entries. As did Betsy, I really liked Mario Quilles's sculptural pieces *Very Early Ocean Shell* (# 1 & #2), with their organic simplicity of form embellished by bright pastel colors. The pieces



*Very Early Ocean Shell* #1 & #2  
Mario Quilles



*Bottle Group 5*  
Luisa Baldinger

pieces glowed like lights in the dark, especially in the low-level lighting of the museum. I also liked Luisa Baldinger's *Bottle Group 5* with their tall, slender waving forms that remind me of blowing wheat or perhaps dancers doing a number from Swan Lake. In the figurative category, Michelle Arteburn's *In the Flow* truly captures the beauty of a trout swimming against the current among sculptural rocks. It almost makes me want to go fishing (catch and release only, of course!). Dean Schroeder's eye-catching and inspiring *Water for the Fields* has a beautiful raku copper patina embellishing an ancient-looking water canteen with ropes to sling over your shoulder.

Overall the quality of all the clay art works at this show is very high, as usual.

I would encourage everyone to visit Ghost Ranch and the "Water for Life" show at the Ellis Museum of Anthropology, which is showing until the end of July. You can also check out all the cases of 600-year-old pottery and see if the spirits move you!



*In the Flow*  
Michelle Arteburn

## Celebration of Clay 2014

By Judy Nelson-Moore

For those of you who were not able to attend, we had a very nice opening reception at the Celebration of Clay. It was a beautiful day at the Ranch...a little rain, so not too hot. Leonard had made a lovely program that listed all the participants. Attendees enjoyed seeing the Barbara Campbell's River of Peace on the wall of the Lower Pavilion. The ranch provided refreshments. Even though the lighting is dim in the museum, the show looked good. The ceramics integrated well with the fiber arts on the walls. Those of you on facebook can see photos of the show setup and opening on the New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists facebook page. The awards are also posted on the celebrationofclay.com website. Long-time member, master potter, and gallery owner, Betsy Williams, made the selections for the awards. We owe Betsy special thanks for taking on a difficult job.



The awards were:

- Best of Show: Mario Quilles, Very Early Ocean Shell #2
- Arita Porcelain Beauty, Quality and Functionality: Lee Akins, Ewer
- Award of Merit: Michelle Arterburn, In the Flow
- Award of Merit: Marilu Tejero, Blue Water Pimachi Bowl
- Award of Merit: Judy Nelson-Moore, Little Tsunami Basket

See the exhibit online at <http://celebrationofclay.com/>

If you haven't already voted, please visit <http://celebrationofclay.com/> and vote for your favorite pieces in the People's Choice Voting. Through July 25th.

If you do visit the show in person, please stop by the gift shop in the Welcome Center at the Ranch to buy a River of Peace tile. Proceeds help to maintain Pot Hollow.

## Bill Armstrong Grant Award, 2014

By Daisy Kates

The winner of this year's Bill Armstrong Grant was the **q-Staff Theatre** in downtown Albuquerque. They requested \$500 for the materials, tools and firings needed to hold a workshop in making clay drums which will then be used in various theatrical performances. The drums are designed in such a way that they can also be used as wind instruments. The participants will be theatre group members as well as associated group members.

Jaime Tillotson and Matthew Cecil-Wolfe will be teaching the workshop. Jaime is also the director of the Arts and Crafts Studio in the Student Union Building at UNM and will facilitate the firings at that location.

The q-Staff Theatre has an integral relationship with Winnings Coffeehouse in the University area. Sandy Timmerman is the owner of the coffeehouse and the profits from that business go into the development of the Theatre. Many of the participants in the theatre group also work at the coffee house.

This was an innovative and interesting request and they will be holding their workshop on July 13, followed by a glazing session. Pictures of this event will be posted to our website soon.

## Albuquerque Area Social

By Judith Richey

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, a number of members of NMPCA from the Albuquerque area, gathered in Mary Sharp Davis' lovely garden in the south valley, to socialize and share examples of our work that followed the theme of "garden art." As we arrived we were encouraged to place our work throughout her magnificent garden - wherever we chose. It was exciting to see so many different pieces displayed in this setting.

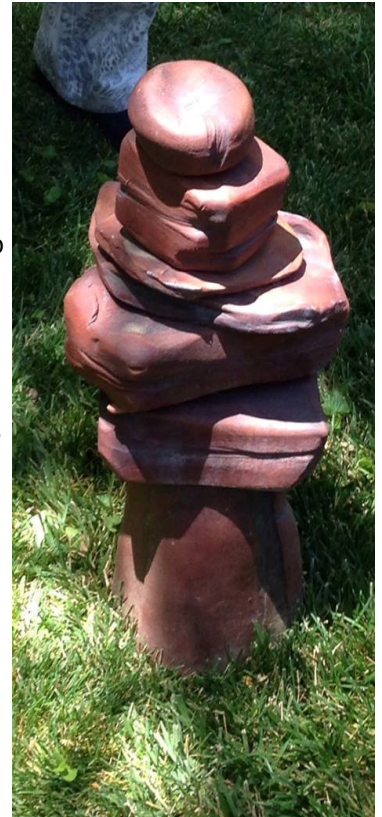
After a terrific lunch, those of us who had brought pieces or portfolios to share talked about our work, explaining our inspirations, materials, and any special techniques we had used. We asked questions, perhaps offered suggestions, and learned a lot! We could not have chosen a better day, nor a more unbelievably beautiful setting. It was wonderful.

The artists whose work we enjoyed were:

Mary Sharp Davis, Leonard Baca, Penne Roberts, Liz Donsbach, Christine Evans, Patricia Cohen, Daisy Kates, Stella Miller, and Judith Richey.

More photos of the event can be seen on the Facebook page:

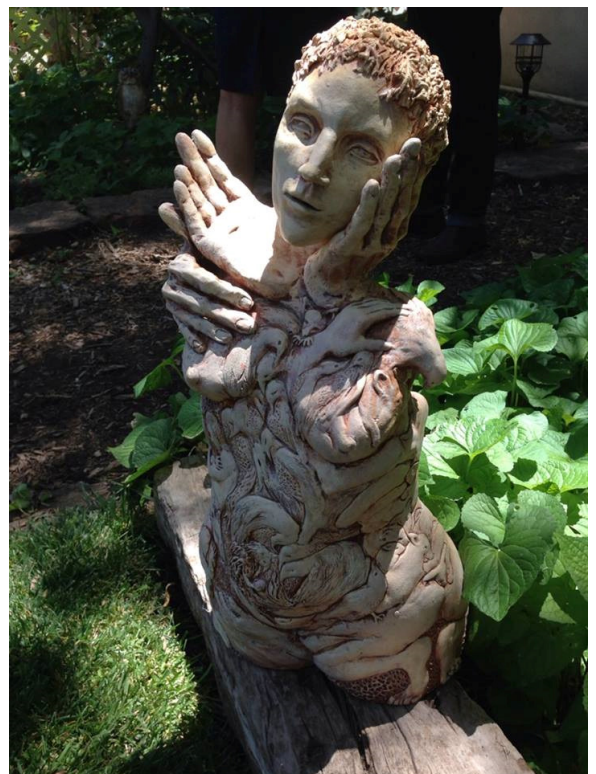
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Penne Roberts



Mary Sharp Davis



Liz donsbach







## Gallimaufry: Ghost Ranch Workshop, September 12-14

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Apply for scholarship by July 20, 2014 at [nmpotters.org](http://nmpotters.org) (<http://nmpotters.org/event-906798>)

What does micaceous clay, collaborations in clay, extruding clay, clay clocks, firing clay in tin-foil saggars, raku clocks, and image transfer on clay all have in common? Well...you say...they are all about clay. Yes, but something else! These different techniques and ideas will come together in presentations at our annual Ghost Ranch workshop. The title of the workshop is Gallimaufry, a word meaning medley. The word comes from French words meaning "to amuse oneself" and "to gorge oneself." This is exactly what we plan to do for ourselves with ceramic information! The weekend offers something for everyone and promises to be great fun with hands-on activities and exchanging of ideas.

Here's a brief description of the presentations. See more information about the presenters and the schedule on our website at <http://nmpotters.org/GRPresenter>

	<p><b><i>Marc Hudson, Introduction to Extruding</i></b></p> <p>Marc Hudson, Espanola, has developed a repertoire of finely crafted extruded and hand thrown decorative pieces. Marc will be showing us how to work with extruded forms, integrating them into a completed piece, and allow us to play with some extrusions. He will give us tips on how to work successfully with extrusions, combining with both hand-build and thrown elements.</p>
	<p><b><i>Phil Green, Raku Clocks</i></b></p> <p>Phil Green will demonstrate how he makes his raku-fired ceramic clocks and wall pieces. Each person will have the opportunity to design in slab using techniques and templates he uses and we will see how he fires his clocks.</p>
	<p><b><i>Jody Folwell, Micaceous Pottery</i></b></p> <p>People are still raving about last year's workshop on Contemporary Pueblo Pottery with famous Santa Clara potter, Jody Folwell. She has graciously offered to come back and show us how she works with micaceous clay. (She says it is much easier!). We'll also do a firing on Sunday.</p>
	<p><b><i>Sharbani Das Gupta, Image Transfer</i></b></p> <p>and Chinese residency experiences</p> <p>Sharbani will tell us how she works with image transfer, showing us the techniques and discussing her sources and inspirations. In addition, Sharbani attended a Chinese ceramic residency last year, and will share her experiences and pictures.</p>
	<p><b><i>Lee Akins, Tin Foil Saggars</i></b></p> <p>Lee will demonstrate tin foil sagger firing, a new low-fire process for achieving a mottled decorative finish. It is similar to pit firing and sagger firing with more predictable results. We will prepare and load our bisque pieces for firing in a small gas raku kiln.</p>
	<p><b><i>Tomás Wolff, Collaboration in Clay</i></b></p> <p>Creative Group Experiences as Social Action</p> <p>This session will be a hands-on experience where participants are involved in the construction of a collaborative clay sculpture. We will be analyzing the process of working together and its implications for social well-being.</p>

## **Calling All Potters And Ceramic Artists! Albuquerque Empty Bowls**

By Claire Lissance

Project Share is celebrating its 30th Anniversary of feeding the hungry in Albuquerque. And its 1 millionth meal will be served this July. This is a huge achievement for a tiny nonprofit with a strong volunteer base.

### **What Does Project Share Do?**

On a typical night, Project Share serves between 150 to 250 meals to all who come. Many of these guests are families with children, military veterans, homeless people, and teens who live on the street, seniors and elders. Last year Project Share served 39,624 meals. Each week we serve close to 800 meals. And your help in this process is greatly appreciated.

### **Difference Between Project Share And Food Banks**

New Mexico was just named #1 in the U.S. for hunger in Adults and Children, and #2 for Senior who experience hunger. Food Banks alone can't begin to meet this need. Many of the clients of Project Share are people without kitchens, people who cannot pay for utilities or have no refrigeration, people who have no way to get to a Food Bank or carry these food items home.

### **Project Share And Potters**

Of course, underneath all of this is the 17 years of partnership with the New Mexico Potters Association individual potters and different clay studios in our city. You may be aware of the Empty Bowls concept that creates events in communities across North America. Ceramic artists like you donate time and talent to create bowls for these events, people who come to the event select a bowl to keep, and receive entertainment and a simple soup meal donated by local restaurants. Monies raised from this event goes to Project Share, to provide operating expenses to keep their doors open and keep serving the meals!

*Also if you are a potter who wants to sell your own work individually 50% of the proceeds will go to **Empty Bowles**. It is great exposure and you will be in the middle it all.*

### **Full Hearts Filling Empty Bowls**

This year, the **Full Hearts Filling Empty Bowls 2014** event will be held on **Saturday, October 18th from 11-3** at St. John's United Methodist Church. (2626 Arizona NE, 1 block North and one block East of San Pedro and Manual). Music will be provided by Chris Dracup and Hillary Smith, and maybe a few other artists. We are hoping for 300 to 400 ticket purchasers. So please encourage your friends to attend and there is plenty of parking! Everyone who attends will get a bowl included with admission and has the opportunity to purchase more, a silent auction and of course delicious soup.

Tickets are \$30 and will be available the first week in August; visit [www.psabq.org](http://www.psabq.org) for more information for Volunteers admission is free with all the benefits of ticket purchasers.

### **We Need Your Help To Make This The Best Empty Bowls Ever!**

We need new folks to be part of the Potter's Committee. Chairperson, Claire Lissance will be leaving this post after October 18<sup>th</sup> and we need some people to form a committee before her post is vacant and join in helping to make the event happen this year so it can continue! Here is a list of events the committee has planned and a list of task we need filled. Please take the time to review our needs and ask yourself where I can help.

#### **There are Bowl Throwing Parties In July:**

- Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup> at Coyote Clay from 10-2pm and pot luck
- Friday July 25<sup>th</sup> at NM Clay from 10-2pm
- Glazing Party at NM Clay Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> , 10-2pm
- TBA at Coyote Clay

#### **The Week Before The Event:**

We need to price, pack finished pottery and deliver the goods to St. John's Church on Friday October 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Cont'd. on pg. 8*

**The Day Of The Event:**

- Help Set Up the evening before (Friday, October 17th from 4 to 7 pm) and the morning of the event ( 8 to 11 a.m.) (8-12 volunteers needed)
- Help with the pottery sales during the hour event (from 11 to 4 pm) ((12-14 volunteers needed
- Take Down The Event (from 3 until 6 pm on Saturday, the 18th) (6-8 volunteers needed)

Most importantly this event is the creation and work of the Ceramics community of Albuquerque and beyond. We simply can't do it without you. A very special thanks to all the Magnificent Volunteers who have helped Empty Bowls succeed for 17 years.

Interested in joining the potter's committee?  
Contact: **Claire Lissance** [cdlune@aol.com](mailto:cdlune@aol.com) or 505-450-1357





## Welcome New Members

### **Nik Back**

Albuquerque

I do functional pottery for everyday life. I work primarily in cone 6 electric with glazes that I make.

Nik is a returning member and has joined the NMPCA board.

### **Jane Gordon**

Albuquerque

I mostly do installation work of multiples, designed for various types of outdoor sites but with flexibility for gallery-type installations as well. I also make pots. And currently teach as an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico.

### **Mary Lou LaCasse**

Las Cruces

I create multimedia mosaics and eclectic sculptures using clay, glass, wood, metal, and found objects.

### **Irene Lawson**

Custer, WA

I work in low fire ceramics which enables me to use a very bright color palette. I love pattern and I love nature. I'm inspired by the natural world around me, and by the many different cultures that use geometric designs. Joined NMPCA with 2014 Ghost Ranch workshop.

### **Niya Lee**

Silver City

### **Pam Montalbano**

Albuquerque

I have worked in clay for 25 yrs. or so and have studied it, taught it, and worked full time in it. I throw functional work, I also throw and alter for make sculpture. I love to hand build and love love to throw. Its all good to me. I love to trim, and I like to glaze. Not crazy about making glazes but do it when I have to.

Currently I am just beginning a new body of sculptural work involving bowls, and maybe boxes and metal and who knows what else will find it's way into my clay.

### **Mary Rich**

Joined to attend the 2014 Ghost Ranch Workshop.

### **Myriam Tapp**

Albuquerque

I am interested in the exhibitions and workshops that NMPCA is proving to the state of New Mexico.

Myriam is a returning member has also joined the board.

### **Lillian Turner-Gracie**

Santa Fe

Joined with the Celebration of Clay 2014.

### **Thala Wolin**

Jackson, CA

Joined to attend the 2014 Ghost Ranch Workshop.

### **Jared Zimmerman**

Albuquerque

Student who joined after participating in the 2014 Spring Clay Olympics.

**“Water for Life”**  
**Notes on the Celebration of Clay Awards**

by Betsy Williams

The criteria I used to select the awards were:

1. Pertinence to the theme, i.e., relevant to “Water”
2. Strength in both idea and execution
3. Originality

Best of Show – Mario Quilles ‘Very Early Ocean Shell #1’

The two pieces of Mario Quilles caught my eye when I first stepped into the room, even though they are relatively small. The two pieces together look quite fresh and tender, and the unusual colors set them apart from everything else in the show. Drawing closer, the delicacy of the shapes and the finely crafted forms are enigmatic. ‘Very Early Ocean Shell #2’ is textured with little concave dots. ‘Very Early Ocean Shell #1’ is larger and smooth. The title reinforces the impression of tenderness and a sense of growth. The theme of water is especially well addressed in its connection to cleanliness, freshness, and growth. They seem plucked from underwater.

Merit Award – Michelle Arterburn ‘In the Flow’

In her depiction of a fish in the current, Arterburn includes the stones on the riverbed, the fish’s open mouth, its flapping tail. This is no wall-mounted trophy fish; this must be the one that got away! The clincher for me was the masterful use of layered glazes containing a depth of colors and textures that adeptly suggest not only water, but also a somewhat slimy riverbed. It is pristinely done.

Merit Award – Judy Nelson Moore ‘Little Tsunami Basket’

The title, ‘Little Tsunami Basket’ made me giggle. The ‘little’ refers to the basket, of course, but the idea of a diminutive tsunami seemed funny. This piece expertly captures the turmoil and splash of a tsunami. The dark surface with occasional blue highlights brilliantly conveys the feeling, in such an encapsulated form, of the larger catastrophic event. The basket handle is ingenious, suggesting the splashing of waves and at the same time serving as a handle, with a sense of randomness and danger.

Merit Award – Marilu Tejero ‘Blue Water Pimachi Bowl’

This piece caught my attention with its flat wide bottom and unabashed blue color. Within the form are heavy and crowded impressions of some kind, abstract and indecipherable, suggestive of shimmering water. The dry glaze surface looks thirsty and parched, and brings up a feeling that it needs to be submersed in water - wet. The handles on either side are wavy and playful, yet on a flat plane, and the rim is uneven and broken. This piece reminds me that water seeks its own level, even when there is turbulence.

Quality, Beauty, Functionality Award – Lee Akins ‘Ewer’

Akins has taken a familiar form and made it worth looking at as if for the first time. The slightly ovoid opening, the supremely comfortable handle, the precise spout, and the pedestal foot combine to produce a sturdy yet delicate-looking piece. The surface texture is lumpy, dark and light, yet uniform throughout the piece, accentuating the sense of hardness combined with detail. The connection with water is unmistakable, and the execution is confident.

I was happy to select these pieces for the awards. I commend the board members and volunteers for curating this show. Your time and effort are to be applauded by all of us.

*New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists  
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87125*