

ELEANOR HEIMBAUGH

Artist Statement

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My creative process evolves in revolutions often revisiting familiar ideas or processes but with a new understanding and appreciation for them. I have always been curious about the environments around me and since childhood on explored my surroundings through extensive bike rides, hiking adventures, and inquiry leading to discovery. My current work uses the hand building techniques of coiling, slab construction, hand sculpting, and press molding. Technical challenges included finding a clay body that steel could be directly fired into and selecting a display device most appropriate for artifact and specimen display. A low fire white paper clay body terra blanc was developed for this body of work and enabled steel objects to be fired directly into the clay. I've also done extensive research on a variety of display methods in order to select the best method of display for each piece. When exploring museums of any kind I find myself lost in thought, imagining the world that these artifacts, specimens, or fossils existed in and curious of the authenticity of interpretation through categorizing collections. My current ceramic work is a pseudoscientific investigation of artifacts, specimens, and fossils, of 21st century American culture. I am considering how these archeological discoveries if found may be interpreted or valued in the future, and what histories or narratives they may tell.