

Jetty O'Rorke Uebner

Artist Bio



I have been living in the Sierra Nevada foothills and working in clay for 35 years. After receiving a minor in art at San Jose State University, my husband and I moved to Cathey's Valley and set up a ceramic studio. We market our pottery under the name of Mud Daubers' Pottery, after that industrious wasp that fashions its nest in the shape of a cylindrical tube from clay. In 2009, I had a one woman show at Merced College, and won first place in the sculpture category at the Northern California "Hands in Clay" show in Stockton. In 2010, I received honorable mention in the California "Hands in Clay" show in Modesto, and third place in Sierra Art Trails "Water - Source of Life" in Oakhurst. In the 2011 Yosemite Renaissance XXV1 I received a money award, and in 2013 I was awarded the Tile Heritage Foundation monetary award at America's Clayfest in Roseville.

Artist Statement

Art should make you stop, want to look deeper, and make you think. My work in landscapes tricks the eye and the brain to see things that do not exist. Simple lines can create movement, mathematical relationships create dimension. I am also influenced by the reality that many colors make up a seemingly one-color landscape, not only by what we see but also from what lies beneath. I am fascinated by how water in the form of snow pack, cascades and mist from waterfalls, runoff in rivers, plus buried in the ground traveling in fissures in the rocks can sustain the many forms of life at all levels.

My recent work represents local landscapes made from handmade ceramic tiles which are fired once and then painted with several layers of undercoat glazes. Then I use a technique called sgraffito to scratch the top layers of glaze to reveal different colors underneath. The tiles are then covered with three coats of clear glaze to produce a crackle effect and fired again. Black paint is rubbed into the cracks to resemble a rock structure. All the tiles are assembled again and glued onto a painted sheet of plywood.