

Rebecca Pinnick
Artist Statement

Being deeply influenced by the natural environment, I often feel more at home in a forest wilderness than when confined within the limits of modern society. It is no wonder then, that I am drawn to clay as a means of artistic expression. To work in clay is to reconnect on an intimate basis to the earth elements that both feed and sustain me. In my work, I strive to create pieces with organic lines and use glaze applications that suggest fluidity and movement, and enjoy the atmospheric effects afforded specifically through soda/salt firing using specific glaze applications that mirror color variations in the natural world.

In my current body of work *The Polar Series*, the bears features are erased, symbolizing not only the disappearance of habitat that they need to survive, but to let the gentle form and salt fired glazes leave at least partial interpretation up to the viewer. The Polar Bear's strength, quiet beauty and tenacity living in some of the world's harshest environments inspire me. It is also my belief that they stand as a symbol, a poster child as it were, of our dwindling resources, and that if we are not cautious, their plight may well be our own. Within a global context, now more than ever, we can clearly recognize not only the vulnerability of the Polar Bear due to loss of habitat, but equally the vulnerability of our own species. Our never ending quest for obtaining and utilizing resources at all costs affects all life on this planet, and in this context, the symbol of the Polar Bear has become a powerful Icon indicative not only of global shifts in temperature, weather extremes and disappearing resources, but as a poignant reminder of the fragility of our existence. The symbol of the Polar Bear stands as a messenger, telling us that as our environment changes and shifts, so too must our perceptions of what we truly need to sustain ourselves, and at what costs we are willing to pay.

