

Nancy Cahan

When I hold a ball of clay in my hand, I often have a preconceived idea of what I want to create. My intention might be to create something I find visually beautiful, or a conceptual piece that captures particular thoughts and feelings. Holding the ball of clay is a tuning-in to intention, but ultimately what is rendered is often a surprise. There's a space between intention and something deeper within that inspires me. Although some of my pieces are symmetrical, I am most drawn to creating rough-edged sculptural forms that sometimes seen unfinished, as in the natural world. And as a practicing psychologist, I try to help people to soften and integrate their rough edges, not to get rid of them.

I am most drawn to the process of Raku and Sagger-firing pieces. Although time-consuming, the process of each renders beautiful effects, and involves fire/smoke/fuming and the use of organic materials. The results are often unpredictable, and require effort and letting go.

Nancy has a B.A. in Art and Psychology, an M.Ed. in Expressive Art Therapy, and a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology.