

Lauren Kearns
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Biography

Lauren Kearns was born in Los Angeles, California, when there were still orange groves in the valley, and Century City did not exist. The beaches were white and beautiful at that time. It was a different time.

As a teenager, they moved, as a family, to East Lansing Michigan, where her father was employed by Michigan State University. It was there she met Kurt Weiser who introduced her to pottery. Always being the 'class artist', it was a natural progression to be introduced and intrigued by the potter's wheel. The fascination with using clay was immediate and continues to this day.

She went to school at the Kansas City Art Institute, majoring in ceramics, and continued her education by receiving her MFA from the University of Oregon, Eugene. With encouragement and support from Ken Ferguson, she became a resident at the Archie Bray Foundation, working primarily in salt-fired porcelain.

Lauren then moved to San Francisco, CA, where she worked at the Macaroni Factory, owned by Peter Volkous. It was there she met Leon Paulos who helped her establish herself in the Bay area and, later, start her own ceramic studio. During those years she worked, taught and managed programs at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center, worked on the City's Art Commission and started to develop her own voice in her work.

A few years later, due to life's circumstances, she moved, back to a very different Los Angeles. The West Side, for those who know. At that point in time she discovered the wholesale aspect of the business of crafts, and in particular, ceramics. She develop more worked, had many good gallery accounts and later went on to participating in many wholesale craft shows, that expanded her market. It was at LA's Southwest Community College, where she really got the teaching bug, when she was hired for a semester, before moving to the Pacific Northwest.

Re-establishing in an historic building that was re-furbished for artists, in Tacoma WA, Lauren continued to develop her market, participating in more shows. As time went on, and the market of crafts changed, she decided that it was time to find another way to support herself so she could make work that she was inspired to make. She taught allover the Puget Sound area, at University of Puget Sound, Kirkland Art Center, Bellevue Art Museum, 747 Gallery, but it was Moshier Art Center where she taught, continually during her time in the area, developing great relationships and watching the progression of the students for many years.

It was time to move, and to help the ailing father she loved. So she moved to Santa Barbara CA, close to where her parents lived, to help what turned out to be the last full year of his life. After 8 months in the area and getting ready to settle, she received an offer to be the Director of the

Carbondale Clay Center. She was free to move and was excited to come to the area and to have the opportunity to contribute to ceramics on a broader scale. After a year and a half, she is now producing work again, and trying sculpture for the first time.