



## **P a t r i c i a K o c h a v e r**

*Evanston IL*

### **About the Work**

This body of work speaks to my love and fascination of form and surface. The large scale spherical forms seek to evoke a sense of fullness and potential, they seem to inhale. They also create an ideal canvas for the flames in the firing. Each piece has been fired several times, and some of the remnants of initial firings show through to the final firing, creating complex surfaces a single firing couldn't achieve. With multiple firings new marks are discovered and this is the impetus to keep experimenting. Each challenge brings new potential and the desire to keep going. My hope is that the continuing study and understanding of process and materials allows these forms to transcend method and evolve into that idea or concept that I see in my mind's eye.

### **The Saggar Firing Process**

These large forms are wheel thrown in sections, then carefully allowed to dry over the span of several weeks. When the piece is bone dry several layers of terra sigillata, a fine particulate slip with colorants, is applied to the surface and then buffed giving color and shine. The piece is then bisque fired, which is a low temperature firing, giving it enough strength to resist thermal shock during the sawdust firing.

The work is then saggar fired. A saggar is a closed container with the ability to withstand high temperatures, usually made of clay, metal, or firebrick. Historically saggars have been used to keep impurities off the fine porcelains of China, however today they are often used to encase the pieces in sawdust and other organic materials during the firing, creating interesting markings on the surfaces of the pots. The work is placed inside the saggar with sawdust and other combustibles, and then placed in a gas kiln which is fired 1200 – 1500 degrees farenheight. The firing takes about six hours, then the kiln is allowed to cool for twenty-four hours. Each firing is different and for the most part unpredictable. Some variables have a degree of consistency however, hardwood sawdust will produce more carbon in the atmosphere, and softer woods like pine burn cleaner. The firing temperature will also determine the color of the smoke markings, lower temperatures giving more browns and higher the blacks.

### **Blue Gallery**

118 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108

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# Patricia Kochaver

*Evanston IL*

## *Recent Exhibits*

Art Under Glass, Evanston IL, 2010  
2nd Biennial Central Time Ceramics, Bradley University, Peoria IL, 2010  
Small Works of Art, Ysla Battrell Gallery, Wilmette IL, 2009  
30 Small Works, Gallery Up, Rock Hill SC, 2009  
Branching Out, Ysla Battrell Gallery, Wilmette IL 2009  
Jersey Shore Clay National 2009, m.t. burton gallery Surf City, NJ, 2009  
CraftForms 2008, 14th Annual International Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Craft,  
Wayne Art Center, Wayne PA, 2008  
Beauty, A Celebration, The Courtyard Gallery, CTU, Chicago IL, 2008  
Ceramics: A Question of Function, Loyola University, Chicago IL, 2007  
The Old Courthouse Gallery, Claymirth and Friends Show, Woodstock, IL, 2005-2007  
Evanston Art Center Spring Benefit, Evanston IL, 2001 – 2007  
The Gallery at Lane Allen Architects, Batavia IL, Group Show, 2006  
Terra Incognito, Patricia Kochaver and Les Orenstien, Oak Park IL, 2005  
The Fine Line Creative Arts Center, Artists Influence Life: A Ceramic Arts Invitational,  
St Charles IL, 2000

## *Gallery Representation*

Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
Lill Street Art Center, Chicago IL  
Illinois Artisans Galleries, Chicago IL  
Terra Incognito, Oak Park IL  
The Gallery Shop, Wayne Art Center, Philadelphia, PA  
Ysla Battrell Gallery, Wilmette IL

## *Professional Activities*

The Evanston Art Center, Studio Coordinator / Instructor, Evanston IL, 2001 - Present  
The Art Center Highland Park, Instructor, Highland Park IL 1997-2000  
The Fine Line Creative Arts Center, Instructor, St Charles IL 1996  
Guest Artist, Large Forms, Elon College, NC 1998  
Guest Artist, The Fine Line Creative Arts Center, Large Platters and Bowls, St Charles IL 1999  
Clayworks Studio, Co-Owner / Instructor, Chicago IL 1990 – 1995

## *Education*

BFA Graceland College, Lamoni IA  
Apprenticeship, F. Carlton Ball, Old Town Studio, Puget Sound WA

