

Carol Mantey

Artist biography



Carol Mantey first studied ceramics at Salt Creek Pottery near Chicago. Once she moved to Galena, she was able to dedicate more time to her interests of art and nature.

Her pottery pieces reflects her love of nature by incorporating nature themes, patterns and natural textures into bowls, mugs, vases, platters and teapots.

Carol's process often includes wandering the woods to look at wildflowers, limestone rock textures, moss and ferns. She pauses along the way to listen to and observe the birds. She may photograph elements in nature using a macro lens, which allows her to recall details later in the studio.

Carol sketches and records her observations and may collect pine cones, unique leaves, rocks and pods for inspiration. Sometimes she uses the collected items directly in her work pressing leaves, prairie plants, wildflowers and ferns into tiles and bowls.

Much of Carol's work is functional, but conveys a message. She likes to create things that can be incorporated into the pattern of daily life. Carol uses a potter's wheel and hand-build techniques to form pieces. Sometimes she uses one method and sometimes the other. At times she bring both processes together in the same piece, which makes the final creation more interesting and complex. For glazing, she prefers earthy tones and colors.

