

Sue DeWulf

ARTIST STATEMENT

My ceramics illustrate my childhood fascination with toys and play. Creating scenarios for my Barbies and other dolls filled my summer days. I remember discovering my grandmother's toy basket full of zoo animals and carefully lining them up along her porch while rearranging and juxtaposing. So, in a sense, while I sculpt, I am a child lost in a fantasy world of play. Consequently, I so enjoy watching and listening to viewers of my pieces as the imagery harkens a childhood memory. I am inspired by the way the toys and objects can be balanced, manipulated and repurposed to create a single whimsical adventure. Each piece I create has an overall theme. Often the ceramic itself determines the movement, color and title. The sculptures are made up of many varied and unique cast toys and molds. I often spend an entire day casting thirty or more molds. I will rest them for 24 hours while my mind grapples with all the figurines and shapes. Returning the next day to uncover the toy basket of clay pieces I begin assemblage and sculpt what I had been imagining. The pieces I create are often disguised as being functional bottles, vessels and containers. Toying with the idea of function in a sculptural piece I find a fascination. The bottle forms are from everyday life. If you look you can recognize a liqueur bottle or vintage perfume bottle. Combining items from popular culture, retro containers and nostalgic toys into a contemporary low fire ceramic sculptural statement resonates with me and hopefully others are intrigued by the conceptions.