

Lisa Schenkelberg  
Artist's Statement

My work is an exploration of the underlying interconnectivity at the heart of nature. The rhythms of the breath, the tide, the seasons, birth to death, the ever-cycling spiral that roots and harmonizes all of nature - this cyclic, generative energy is the great unifier that connects all beings in a vast web of interrelationship, from the micro to the macro, all of the parts essential, all of the parts woven together to create a dynamic, fluid whole. I am interested in articulating a symbolic representation of the inherent interdependencies that connect all beings within this living web of complex systems and relationships. My intention is to emphasize the animating energy streaming through all life, regardless of the particular form.

These themes are not only articulated through the visual impact of my finished work, but are also reflected in the process I engage to create each piece. I see my creative process as an ever-evolving relationship with clay. The forms that emerge are the co-creative fruition of a dynamic dialogue and this process mirrors how all organic systems arise out of complex interrelationships. Simultaneously, my process draws from the taproot of humanity's ancestral past, as tempering clay into ceramic is one of the earliest known forms of art. Rooted in this lineage, my hope is that my work evokes in viewers a visceral felt-sense of our connection to a greater whole.

"The Butterfly Effect" is an exploration of the phenomenon bearing the same name. The scientist Edward Lorenz coined the term to describe how variable complexities within the conditions of dynamic systems can lead to the unfolding of widely divergent outcomes. The constituent forms in this piece replicate, converge and evolve in fluid, yet surprising ways, creating an impression of movement and transformation that speaks to the fundamental interconnectivities within nature. As a further reference to the butterfly effect phenomenon, the palette for this piece was inspired by the striking colors of the Blue Morpho Butterfly, a species indigenous to the tropical forests of South America, Central America and Mexico.