

## **Lawren Watson**

*“My craft developed quickly when I began creating pottery full time. Without the distractions of a conventional career, my creativity soared to new places. I have never compromised or held back my creative urges when making these artworks of clay.”*

Lawren Watson was introduced to clay in high school and continued her craft study with Neal Jowaisis and Patrick Dougherty at Northern Kentucky University, and independently afterwards. In 1989 Lawren left a career in commercial printing to pursue clay full time. She refurbished a garage for her rural studio, built a kiln and founded nationally recognized Watson Clay Art, an independent pottery studio in Northern Kentucky. Lawren works in porcelain, praising its responsiveness for allowing her the greatest freedom of expression. Treating porcelain's white surface as a painter's white canvas, Lawren, who loves color, develops bright glazes, making statements in tandem with innovative forms, accents, and unique twists. Influenced by her natural surroundings and travels abroad, her pottery also contains a strong human/spiritual metaphor. Lawren feels that things that happen to us, good and bad, are what develop character and spiritual strength. She extends that to her pottery, creating character through the distortions she carves into their forms. Lawren has served as a professor of art at Northern Kentucky University, has written for AEQAI.com, a national award-winning online art critical magazine and has been designated Artist Emeritus, a lifetime achievement award from the Kentucky Arts Council. She has served on boards and advisory committees for Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen (president), Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, and the Kentucky Artisan Center.