

Carolyn Sleeper

Pottery Artist & Jewelry Maker

Washington, NC

Art makes me laugh, makes me cry, and gives me much joy through the creative process. Making art is something I've always wanted to do.

Growing up in Kentucky, I remember wanting to become an art teacher when I was in the third grade. That was when I had Mrs. Carolyn Vaught Day as my wonderful art teacher who inspired my creative spirit. In junior high, Mrs. Huglin introduced me to abstract art, then in high school, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Margaret Wise nurtured my understanding of art. They also taught me a most important concept that art isn't necessarily about the final "product," but the real art is the process of getting there.

I graduated from Morehead State University as a fine arts major, and took the necessary courses to become certified to teach. In undergraduate school, I honed my drawing, painting, and printmaking skills, but it wasn't until much later in life that I developed a passion for collage, wire, and pottery. Time and experience are both great educators, perhaps even more than the formal education that universities offer.

I've had the privilege of taking classes and/or workshops at the following institutions: Old Dominion University, Savannah College of Art and Design, Tidewater Community College and Virginia Commonwealth University. Each of these institutions offered a chance for growth as an artist, and I took full advantage of it, learning not only from the teachers, but from fellow adult students that I worked with side-by-side.

My art teaching career has been spent mostly at Norfolk Collegiate School in Norfolk, Virginia, where I taught primary, middle and secondary levels at one time or another. What a great experience that was! I had such supportive administration and fellow faculty members, who allowed me the freedom to push students to become their very best.

It's been quite an honor to have taught graduates who went on to such colleges as the Pratt Institute, Savannah College of Art and Design, Rhode Island School of Design, the Museum School at Boston, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

I have embarked on a new adventure in my life... that of having my own working studio and offering adult classes in pottery. Just how lucky can a girl get? Well, it's not luck, because God has had His hand in all of this. He's blessed me with a talent to use and enjoy; a place in which to use it, and a supportive family. I currently show my work at RiverWalk Gallery in Washington, NC, the gift shop at the Museum of the Albemarle, Beaufort County Arts Council's Lane Gallery, and the North Carolina Estuarium in Washington.

