

Cream and Sugar Set With Warblers
2008
Porcelain Wheel Thrown and Altered
Mid-Range Soda Fire



JULIA GALLOWAY

Pottery weaves into our daily lives through use and decorates our living space with character and elegance. Thus, I create pottery that is joyous: teapots to celebrate drinking tea with friends; a pitcher to decorate a mantel even when it's empty; a mug with texture inside the handle to give our fingers a place to play. Cream and sugar sets have their own inherent dialogue, reminiscent of close conversations that take place during their ritual use. Pottery is a reflection of our reality, our fantasy and ourselves.

Being a potter is not the life I expected. It is a public life. I meet many people through making pottery that they use. Bernard Leach said that "the potter touches the person through the pot" and I agree with him. In some way I represent an idea to the public. So often when people hear that I make pottery, they look at my hands, as if there is some answer there. For me being a potter is about being part of a larger community, about celebrating domesticity and community. I make work for people to use, and their experience with it influences what I make. Once, when I was working at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts I was in line at lunch and heard someone say: "Julia? Yeah, I know her, she's my potter", and I thought that this is the root of being a craftsman; giving and getting and giving again.

I am insistent about making things with my hands. A need for beautiful domestic objects and an instinctual drive to create things are tremendous dance partners for idea and desire. Utilitarian pottery supports and represents our intimate rituals of nourishment and celebration.