

Cheri Platter Creates Art From a Wide Variety of Clays

Cheri Platter found her calling while watching TV.

“I was watching a PBS program in which a potter was making a stoneware vase on a potter’s wheel,” she remembers.

She was so intrigued by the process she immediately signed up for classes at a local art school.

After just two years of classes, Ms. Platter set up a home studio, Faerie Hollow Studio, and started selling her clay pots in art shows.

“I was fortunate to sell all my pots as fast as I could make them,” she says.

Today she has expanded from making just pots to sculpting functional and decorative forms from porcelain paper clay. In addition, she makes her own line of jewelry, called Faeriewear, from Silver Art Clay, a clay made of real silver which is sculpted, formed and kiln fired.

In her newest body of work, Ms. Platter is exploring the shapes and forms of Chinese robes.

“I am interested in representing in porcelain clay the fabric shells we have adorned ourselves with through the centuries,” she says.

She works on her art full time, averaging six to eight hours a day in the studio working with clay or at the jewelry table assembling finished jewelry pieces. But her schedule varies day to day.

“Working for yourself allows the freedom to work, then explore other things, then work after hours again if needed,” she explains. “It can be a great way to create.”

When she feels stuck, or inspiration just doesn’t seem to strike, Ms. Platter accepts it as a signal to get away from the studio, to go for a walk

in the woods, to visit a museum, or to work in her garden, which is intimately connected with her artwork.

In her mind, the connection is basic. She sculpts clay into art forms and shovels clay in garden areas. She turns silver dust into jewelry. Soon, she hopes even to turn fire and sand into glass

beads by studying lampworking.

“Basically, I live to play in any form of dirt,” she explains.

When Ms. Platter moved to Brown County 16 years ago, it was not specifically for the art community here, but for the scenery and a chance to live in the woods. But living in “The Art Colony of the Midwest” has worked out well for her.

“My friends here work in all forms of art and art-related businesses,” she says. “The art community is really an added bonus.”

Ms. Platter is an active member of that community, a member of the Art Alliance Brown County and the Board of Directors of the Brown County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Her work has been exhibited in the prestigious Hoosier Salon, and can be found at Ferrer Gallery in downtown Nashville and in her home studio, Faerie Hollow Studio. The last weekend of June each year, her participates in the Brown County Studio and Garden Tour. During the month of October, she participates in the Back Roads Studio Tour.

More information about Cheri Platter and her work can be found at www.cheriplatter.com or www.BrownCountyStudioTour.com.

by Michele Heather Pollock

