

Artist's Bio:
Karen Nelson

I'm a native Californian and grew up in the Bay Area. I arrived in SW Florida after a long sojourn in Chicago, where I earned my MFA in painting and started my career as a decorative painter.

My experience, training and technique have had me painting specialty finishes across the US for decades. It took a pandemic and a big move to bring me back to a first love, ceramics.

I hand build clay pieces influenced by the historic decorative motifs that inspire me as a decorative painter. Influences include architectural elements, contemporary wallpaper, and historic color combinations. Currently, I'm interested in tulipieres and Staffordshire dogs (and cats) and silhouettes. The light and life of SW Florida has an influence on the colors and mood of the happy things I'm making.

I love that everyone can relate to clay – without much experience or exposure. In classes, I try to guide students to find their relationship to mud and encourage each student to make it a long-term relationship.



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