

## ***Stevie McKean***

### **Artist's Statement**

As a ceramicist, my work is deeply influenced by my surroundings. Whether I'm embedded in a rural or urban landscape, I gather inspiration from the textures and shapes that define my environment. My connection to place is sometimes quite literal, as I search for wild clay along the coastline or riverbanks. In rural settings, I'm drawn to the natural world—the rough textures of coastal cliffs, the delicate outlines of seaweed, the contrast of dry grass against marshland. In urban environments, it's the industrial landscape and its fallout that inspires me—the patterns of broken chain-link fences, the curves of bike racks, the worn markings on roads. Each element sparks a conversation and a story, informing the language of my art.

Through clay, I reinterpret the objects and scenes I observe, creating pieces that capture the essence of my surroundings. My goal is not just replication, but to infuse each piece with new meaning and connection, inviting viewers to see the world through a different lens and striving to convey the stories that are hidden in the world around us.

### **Artist's Bio**

Stevie McKean is a multidisciplinary artist based in Portland, Maine, originally hailing from Philadelphia, where she earned her bachelor's degree in printmaking from Tyler School of Art. Her current artistic practice centers on functional ceramic-ware and sculpture.

Central to Stevie's artistic exploration are themes and imagery surrounding human-made objects discarded into nature and the subsequent cycle of their return. Drawing inspiration from both natural elements and industrial landscapes, Stevie employs texture, pattern, and color to reflect and subvert the relationship between humans and their surroundings.