

# Rosalba Negrete - Sculpture

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

My life is like a sum of many lives. My heritage is from Spain and Chile. I grew up near the foothills of the Andes and the sea. My life began in the Central Valley which is often called the Land of Wine. The winding country roads corkscrewed around wineries and climbed the sunny hillsides similar to my father's home in Malaga. I woke up every morning looking to the Cordillera de los Andes. The mountains were big, majestic and eternal. The peaks were always capped with snow and bathed in blue and turquoise colors. In my younger years, I was captivated by poetry. I took several courses of literature. I had the honor to meet Ana Maria Maza, who had a great impact on my perception of life. I worked in a volunteer program to help disadvantaged women break the circle of poverty. I helped women learn skills to be better equipped to survive in the modern world. This experience changed my way of looking at humanity. My life changed again when I traveled to Poland. I lived in Warsaw for three years, which gave me the opportunity to explore Europe's

different cultures, flavors and arts. I explored the museums of Spain, the ancient architecture of Italy and walked between the ruined columns of the Acropolis in Greece. Like a sponge, I absorbed images of art collections, magnificent painters, sculptors and experienced colorful cultures with all my senses.

Once again, I changed venue. This time I moved to the United States for three years. I lived in Texas and Virginia where I continued my immersion into local arts. I returned to Chile in 2000 to be close to my parents and family. I moved back to the Central Valley, where I painted murals and sold sculptures. I worked with local artists who influenced me to create more of my own expressions of art. I returned to Virginia in 2007 and was diagnosed with cancer. After a year of chemotherapy, I decided to take hand building courses with Amy Oliver. Finding clay as my new medium was a rebirth. Today, I mold this three dimensional form into my perceptions of humanity. I put my feelings and passion into forming and shaping the clay. In the final conclusion, I am the sum of all my experiences. My ceramic sculptures represent the sum of many lives, the histories of many cultures, the stories of my ancestors and the celebrations of life.



## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Earth, water, fire, wind... Many philosophies and worldviews have used these archetypal classical elements to describe nature. We have come a long way in science and philosophy since the origin of these concepts. Yet, ceramic artistry embraces the mysticism of these elements. Earth and water creates the medium. In a sculptor's hand, the medium is transformed in appearance and structure to express a thought, an emotion or a feeling. Although still invisible, the alchemy of color is added to express passion. Finally, wind and fire gives birth to the colors and hardens to sculpture to ensure continued existence and brilliance. I create ceramic

sculptures, high-fire stoneware, because they have a warm and earthy quality. Clay represents our closeness to the humility of nature. Vision creates a bridge to anthropomorphizing this rich medium into images of the human condition. My sculptures celebrate the symbiotic interaction between spirit, body, matter and the passion for life.