**Artist Resume**

**Virginia C. Cobler**

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**ARTIST STATEMENT**: My creativity, life experiences and personal reflection are best expressed in my three dimensional sculptures primarily based in clay. The sensuality of this form of expression seeks to utilize the multifaceted aspects of surface, line, negative space, motion and passion, all so subtlety woven into every aspect of creating a single piece. Clay was chosen as my primary medium for its unique versatility and the staging toward a completed piece of work, changing from one state of being into another that is inherent in utilizing clay. Ceramics is the basis for nearly all of my work and functions as a structure, with an intention of continue skill building not only in producing forms by hand and on the potters wheel, but also experimentation with glazes.

My work is not only a mirror of my relationship with the clay, and the other materials I am working with, it is represents my contemplation of life’s journey. As such, the esoteric connection to my work manifests in my reactions and responses to the clay, and the mark making I leave upon and within the surface. As I become more confident in my abilities as an artist, the more effortless and spontaneous my hands work in creating something I have not consciously considered. I continue to learn about myself and what is hidden from thought and visible sight, as it manifests in forming the clay into an expression.

I hope the viewer will be able to explore my ceramic and sculptural work visually and emotively. When the viewer is absorbed into my work and experiences the sculpture – the work has successfully spoken. For me, this is art – an intensification of nature as an abstraction – a visceral response and an internal interaction manifesting externally.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS:**

Art + Design Ceramic Grant, Spring 2014, Title: *Hermosa Isla de la Iguana.*

Nancy Wallace Scholarship, Fall 2013.

Harford Artist Scholarship, Fall 2012 – Spring 2013.

The Nancy Sterner Fine Arts Endowment Scholarship, Fall 2012 – Spring 2013

The HCC Presidential Grant, Spring 2011 through Spring 2013

**PROCESS:** Clay holds many challenges requiring not only skill, but also a sense for when this medium’s physical limitations have been reached, rather than the terminus of my imagination. My intention is to continue to extend my proficiency in diversifying and increasing the complexity of form and style, but also to learn new treatments to the clay body once fired with stains and firing techniques.

Many pieces emerge from concepts and influences of a lifetime of experiences and knowledge, however, sometime forms emerge from the unconscious mind or are seen while in a dream state. I may start a piece from a thrown clay vessel to serve as an armature, or begin building from a simple piece of clay toward something envisioned in the mind, in an additive process. More recently, I have begun also begun to use subtraction of clay through deep carving, and creating not only an external space but also an internal space in my sculptures. These clay sculptures are, however, incomplete until they incorporate color through glazes, acrylic or spray paint. I also incorporate different materials in the final pieces; each chosen carefully, and related to the final sculpture and may include wood, fiber, wire, semi-precious stones, and shells. Light is also a quality of my work, offering a piece to be seen differently from various angels, using the eyes to caress the image evoking sensations and emotion.

As such, my art is the process of taking from an intangible experience or a natural object, the qualities, thoughts and memories which resonate most profoundly within me, and expanding those qualities to create a sculptural externalization. This is the most compelling part of creating sculptural art as it is a suggestion of how I uniquely see and experience the world. It is most humbling when I have successfully conveyed perhaps some small and hidden part of life to another and they feel and see what I feel and see – and neither one of us is no longer alone on life’s journey in the solitude of our minds and hearts.

**SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS**

* Art by the Bay Gallery. (Havre de Grace, Maryland) Pending. 2015.
* Art People Gallery. (San Francisco, California) Pending. 2015.
* Upcoming juried shows in 2015 include the Havre de Grace Seafood Festival and the Darlington Apple Festival.
* Juried B’more Holiday Market, St. John's Church, St. Paul Street in Baltimore Maryland, December 20, 2014.
* Holiday Bazaar, December 13, 2014 at Dove Valley Vineyard in Rising Sun, Maryland.
* Authors and Artists, City of Bel Air, Maryland, December 6, 2014.
* Pottery at the Barn, Earth Arts Guild.  November 7-9, 2014.
* Juried Darlington Apple Festival, Darlington, Maryland, October 4, 2014.
* Havre de Grace Annual Juried Art Festival in Havre de Grace, Maryland, August 15-17, 2014.
* VPAA Ceramic + Design Grant, Spring 2014. Hermosa Isla de la Iguana.
* Light in the Darkness, An Intimate Encounter, Visual Performing and Applied Art Student Gallery, Joppa Hall, Harford Community College, April 2014.
* Authors & Artists Holiday Show, City of Bel Air, Maryland, December 7, 2013.
* Steppingstone Museum Harvest Festival, Havre de Grace, Maryland, September 28-29, 2013.
* Havre de Grace Annual Juried Art Festival in Havre de Grace, Maryland, August 16-17, 2013.
* “Impartial” Juried Exhibition, Chesapeake Gallery, Harford Community College, *Chop Wood and Carry Water* (Oil Painting), *Hope is Eternal* (charcoal, water color, and ink) as well as *The Agony de Feet* (the 600 toothpick sculpture of shoe), April - May 2013.
* “A Nation Divided: 150 Years after the Civil War”, Juried Photography Exhibition, Harford County Public Library, Heroes Wanted, April 2013.
* “Pottery at the Barn”, Earth Arts, Rockfield Manor, March 2013.
* "Curves and Angles Exhibition”, Harford Artist Gallery, Title: Eating Cherry Blossoms  I (Pencil, Charcoal, Sumi Ink, Watercolor), Title: Immergence (Acrylic, Sumi Ink), Title: Cosmic Order (Ceramic, Acrylic Paint, Semi Precious Gem Stones), March and April 2013.
* “Addicted to Art”, Title: Movement Of the Sea (Sculpture), Rockfield Foundation and Harford Artist Association, February 2013.
* Authors & Artists Holiday Show, City of Bel Air, Maryland, December 8, 2012.
* Pottery at the Barn, Earth Arts, Rockfield Manor, October 2012.
* Solo Exhibition, “Harvesting the Earth”, Visual Performing and Applied Art Student Gallery, Joppa Hall, Harford Community College, October 2012.
* “Light Leaves Juried Photography Installation”, Uncivilization Festival, Sustainability Centre, Hampshire, England, Geese and Algae, August 2012.
* “Art Without Boundaries Exhibition”, Harford Arts Council and Harford County Disabilities Commission. The Essence (Pen and Ink and Water Color), July 2012.

**MEDIA ATTRIBUTION**

Virginia Cobler, Hermosa Isla de la Iguana. **Art & Sculpture Media Website**. Rome, Italy. <https://www.facebook.com/Bardia.Sculpture/photos/pb.216884508343726.-2207520000.1401597524./772494382782733/?type=3&theater>

“Addicted to Art Show”, **Baltimore Sun**. February 14, 2013. <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/harford/belair/bs-hpc-ph-ag-7106-addicted-2-a.jpg-20130214-photo.html>

“Virginia Cobler, Harve de Grace Summer Carnival 2012”, **B&B Team, Maryland Destinations**. <http://www.pinterest.com/pin/473863192015166008/>

Geese and Algae. **Light Leaves Photo Installation**. Uncivilization Festival. Sustainability Centre, Hampshire, England, 17-19 August 2012. [https://www.flickr.com/photos/29497414@N05/sets/72157631303703142/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/29497414%40N05/sets/72157631303703142/)

**EDUCATION**

Harford Community College, AA Fine Arts, (2013)

Harford Community College, continuing credit education in ceramics and sculpture (2013 – Present), Graphic Design (2011 – 2013)

Phi Sigma Alpha Honor Society and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Harford Community College, continuing non-credit education in web and graphic design (2001 – 2004)

University of Houston, BA Political Science (1993), MA Political Science (1996)

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

Member, Maryland Art Registry. 2015 – Present.

Member, Bel Air Art Registry. 2014 – Present.

Chesapeake Feline Association. Volunteer Grant Writing, Marketing, Graphic Designer and Photographer, 2013 – Present.

Board of Directors, Secretary, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Anita C. Leight Estuary for the Otter Point Creek Alliance, 2009 – 2010.