

Eileen P. Goldenberg

The story of my job: CERAMIC ARTIST!

I am a full time, thriving artist, using a number of mediums. This sketch shows how I create my hand thrown porcelain. The pieces are functional: teapots, large plates, cups, watercolor bowls, saltcellars.

The process: I weigh the clay, wedge it, throw on the potter's wheel. Then they have to dry for two days, get trimmed, dry for two weeks, be decorated, fired, unloaded, glazed, and fired again. I pick each piece up about 27 times (yes, I counted).

My favorite part is throwing, feeling the soft, wet clay as I center and throw. The clay is very responsive to me, and we have a great time.

I can play/sketch on the wheel to see what forms I can come up with. From these prototypes I decide what to test when I am selling in my booth. I get fast, direct feedback from my collectors. Sometimes they want lids for the saltcellars or more black and white patterns. I also see what sells out fast and continue to make those pieces. It is great to have the freedom to decide.

I am always busy, since I do everything. Because I am my own boss, I can take a day off, go sketching, take a nap, draw, etc.

I design what I want, use the colors, techniques that I have developed, formulate glazes, change directions, set my prices, and decide where I will sell. I love being in control of my time, which makes me very happy.

I LOVE my job, because I created it!