



**Renee Couture - *Paisajes*
March, 2008**

People naturally desire to create something tangible. As an artist whose preferred medium is clay, I respect ceramic traditions but am not bound by them—this connects me to both the past and the future. Clay is independent, yet responsive. My work is a visual representation of an on-going dialogue with clay...and myself. There is a meditative quality in working with clay that I crave; in the creative process, I feel grounded.

In creating mixed media installations, I employ repetition and pattern. I call attention to the surface quality of the clay and its relationship to other materials, such as hair, wool, and fur used in accenting works. Mixed media works allow more answers to the visual questions and challenges presented to me during the creative process. I am attracted to exploring the line between fine art and craft, and creating a compelling juxtaposition of hard and soft, touchable and untouchable, form and shadow, curiosity and repulsion. I am concerned with the small moments within a work and attempt to focus on details to entice the viewer. Within my work, I want to address issues of gender, culture, and one's personal environment. I utilize multiple glazes, washes, and firing techniques to create interesting surface qualities on repeated forms. In my work, the viewer is invited to question the details or simply enjoy them.

As an artist, I bring to my work my experiences, culture, and time. My experiences in rural southern Oregon and South America are important themes in my work. I strive to create art exists within a social context—approachable and accessible, while continuing to be personal. I want to create work that is a starting point for dialogue between the viewer and myself, not an ending point.