

S N Y D E R M A N - W O R K S G A L L E R I E S

Gretchen Ewert borrows images from Art History, visits "old friends" in museums, and natural imagery while hiking. She lives in rural Northern New Mexico where she shares space with wildlife and can walk down to the river, catching bighorn sheep who come down from the hills to drink in a time of drought.

Ewert marvels how cultures have used animal imagery to create beauty, functionality, and ceremony out of utilitarian objects. Whether they are actually used for daily purposes, they serve to reinforce the connection with the natural world's mythic powers. She includes human figures because we cannot ourselves escape being part of that animal universe. None of these images would exist without our hand.

Gretchen Ewert uses waxy, smooth surfaces, erect poses, and organic layered colors. That choice evolved because it was pleasing to handle, to look at. She makes work that is fragile yet invites touch. The pieces are hand-built, sanded, and fired many times. Some color is fired on, but quite a bit is applied after firing where she uses materials not technically associated with the ceramic process. She has moved away from the idea that everything should be the accident of the kiln. Because she shares with ancient artisans a love of metallic surfaces, she uses metal leaf and cannot get away from sometimes using real gold.