

Brief Bio- Greg Busceme. gregb@artstudio.org

Born in 1955 I've lived in Beaumont, Texas most of my life. Raised by wonderful parents and sharing a life with two brothers and a sister, we spent half of our lives living at Crystal Beach where I was highly influenced by life on the coast and affected by all the marine life and shoreline fossils. The shape of shells and rocks and later shark teeth on the shore had a particular beauty that continues influences my forms still.

I began my career in clay at Lamar University under the influence of Jerry Newman in the summer of 1975. Worked alone for two years and returned to Lamar to study under Meredith Jack for two years, where I gained a true understanding of what it took to be an artist.

In 1980 I started graduate school at Washington University in ST. Louis under Professor David Hershey, where I spent my time working in clay and glass blowing. I received my M.F.A. in Ceramics in 1982. Distinguished as the first student at Wash U to receive a Masters' degree in Ceramics

Returning to Beaumont, it was my desire to open a studio where other artists could share space and work together. Ultimately my wife Angela, and I co-founded The Art Studio, Inc. located in Downtown Beaumont. In 1992 we raised just enough funds to put a down-payment on the purchase our present location at 720 Franklin St. As a native beaumaniac it is my personal mission to encourage art in all aspects of our community. Especially in the various educational institutions and youth care programs. Raised in a large Sicilian family influenced my need for loud voiced, hugs and kisses and lots of love. Community is my favorite word.

Artist statement-Greg Busceme

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My interest in clay comes from a fascination with fire. Nothing beats a seething kiln. That relation of clay to fire stands out as one of my motivations to make objects in clay. My current works are ceramic 'fetishes' using biomorphic and geometric shapes, firing low to midrange and raku. They are meant to be comforting shapes that loosely reference ancient fetishes in their shape and intent. They are meant to be jovial plays on shape. I also have a strong interest in clay as a viable therapeutic tool. Since Southeast Texas has had numerous hurricanes over the past decade, PTSD has become a critical issue. We have higher demand for classes after a disaster which reflect a need for distractions. My work with young people has shown me doors that can open when working with students in clay. As such, I feel that clay will play a role in the therapeutic fields. Clay has offered me a life filled with growth through teaching. I have had the distinct privilege of seeing so many young artists develop in their work and in their lives. I will be ever grateful for the many hands who helped shape me and the organization we built. I look forward to having more time to focus on my art and my vocation.