

## Artist Profile

# Anita Walling

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My pottery is made by the pinch method. I use my hands alone with a few hand tools. I love the immediacy of putting my hands directly in the clay, the direct communication with it as I feel what the clay wants to become. I use mid-fire porcelain clay fired in an electric kiln. I also love having the opportunity to infuse the frequency that flows from source through my hands into each piece. While some use this kind of energy to do hands-on healing work, I channel it directly into the clay. I enhance the organic shapes are with symbols, including crop circles, forms from nature and minerals that emit healing energies. These pieces are my way of bringing heaven to earth.

## Artist Bio

Anita has been a craft artist since she was a child and started knitting and making most of her clothing while growing up in Asbury Park, NJ. After getting an academic degree in American Studies (she did manage write her senior thesis on the American quilt) she went to Peter's Valley Crafts Center in Layton, NJ to study weaving. She fell in love with the natural world, moved to Vermont, and learned about her new environment by walking the fields and woods looking for dye plants. Once a year she would go to the farm and pick through the freshly shorn fleeces, then spin them and dye the yarn with the plants she had collected, grown organically and, later, ordered to get those elusive reds and blues. She developed knitting techniques so she could easily use all the fine variations in color she had created. Largely self-taught, she took occasional workshops including learning to create individual color palettes from students of Suzanne Caygill. Her work has been shown at fairs throughout New England as well as ACC fairs and on Newberry St. in Boston.

Single motherhood intervened in the professional aspect of her work but never dampened the need to create. After moving to Florida in 2002 she studied both mosaics and pottery. Pottery won out as she continued to study with various local teachers. Putting her hands in the clay became a new way to connect with nature and it allowed the energy she feels move through her hands, that some use for hands-on healing, to come into form. Anita became an official half back when she moved to Leicester a year ago attracted by the beautiful mountains and fields, the concern for growing food locally and the support of the crafts all of which she missed in Florida.



## Artist Statement

As I hold the clay in my hands and pinch it into the shape it wants to become, I consciously fill the pot with my intent that however one uses the pot, be it to put on your altar or to hold your car keys, the pot enhances whatever prayer you put in it and helps you remember that you loved.

