

Our LaRue Post Office

10 x 9.5 x 11.5 inches

Ceramic, sculpture



Tristan McLawler

Bio

Tristan is a ceramic artist from Northwest Arkansas, currently living a nomadic life as a military spouse. As a homeschooling mom of three, she teaches art and ceramics classes in her community and is currently a studio artist at Gemini Arts Collective in Columbia, SC. Her work is a reflection of my love for the process. It's messiness, unpredictability, and endless opportunities for growth. She is drawn to the tactile nature of clay, how it evolves with each touch, each mistake, and each new attempt. The beauty of pottery lies not only in the final piece, but in the freedom of getting lost in the moment and simply being with the material. Through her work, she aims to foster community and connection, whether that's through collaboration, sharing skills, or simply being present with others in the process. Every piece she make holds a story of both personal and collective experience, and she finds joy in knowing that these imperfections and learning moments are what make her work truly unique.

Artist Statement

My work is a reflection of my love for the process. Its messiness, unpredictability, and endless opportunities for growth. I'm drawn to the tactile nature of clay, how it evolves with each touch, each mistake, and each new attempt. The beauty of pottery lies not only in the final piece, but in the freedom of getting lost in the moment and allowing myself to simply be with the material. Through my work, I aim to foster community and connection, whether that's through collaboration, sharing skills, or simply being present with others in the process. Every piece I make holds a story of both personal and collective experience, and I find joy in knowing that these imperfections and learning moments are what make my work truly unique.

This piece, *Our LaRue Post Office*, is a replica of the LaRue Post Office located on Beaver Lake in Rogers, Arkansas. My great grandmother, Ruby Jewel Walden, was Postmistress and ran both the post office and general store from 1947 to 1983. I grew up right behind the building, as did two generations. This post office is home. It's Arkansas'. It's ours.