

"A Soft Place to Land"

MFA Thesis
Exhibition in
Ceramics by Tina
Thomas



Tina Thomas MFA Thesis Exhibition

Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art - Fort Hays State Campus

Opening Reception

Friday August 22nd 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Exhibition Dates

August 22nd through September 5th 2025

Tina Thomas

Artist Statement

“My work over the last four years has been a journey of honing technical skills, self-reflection, and learning to trust my intuition. As I’ve deepened my practice, I’ve come to understand that ceramics is where I am meant to be, and it is what I have to offer the world. Through creation, I connect to something larger: the material, my relationships with family and friends, and the people who will experience my work. These relationships influence and guide my creative process, grounding me in love, support, and shared experiences.

I work primarily with white stoneware and porcelain because of the way glazes and stains interact with these lighter clays. The beautiful white of porcelain gives me great satisfaction, both in its aesthetic and in the way it feels in my hands, especially when I throw on the wheel with it. I began experimenting with stains halfway through my MFA program, particularly copper carbonate, which creates a dramatic metallic sheen on unglazed surfaces, and a beautiful green under a clear glaze, especially on porcelain. This process allowed me to add depth and richness to my work, making it more dynamic.

My process also includes the use of underglazes that I paint onto leather-hard clay and sometimes use the sgraffito technique, carving through the color. After firing, I stain my work with copper carbonate and apply glaze to areas where I want contrast or shine. All of my work is fired to cone 5, ensuring strength and durability while allowing the textures and colors to emerge in their full vibrancy.

Experience joy in the present moment—a soft place to land.”

Tina Thomas

Artist Statement Continued

“I'm inspired by artists like Frida Kahlo, Patti Warashina, Patrick Nagel, Picasso, and Tim Burton, just to name a few and I love folk art pottery from all cultures. I have always been drawn to the expressive power of faces. Faces convey emotion, tell stories, and connect people. After receiving the GSE grant to explore decal printing, I began incorporating human faces into my work through collages. I learned to apply the decals onto leather-hard clay. After firing, I would play dress-up with pan pastels, applying makeup to the faces, particularly blue or purple eyeshadow, reminding me of my youth growing up in the 80s. The decal method also allowed me to bring my love of nature into my practice, using photos of textures in nature that I have taken over the years while hiking or mountain biking, to create prints that express my connection to the world around me. The process of creation is central to my practice. I think about the journey from the studio to the moment someone views my work or holds a piece in their hands. Whether sipping from a mug or cradling a tea bowl, these intimate actions are powerful moments of presence, connection, and healing. My work aims to encourage joy, evoke hope, and invite a sense of peace and happiness; things that make us feel alive, welcome, and connected to the world around us. My work also reflects my belief that we are all connected and that nothing we accomplish is done alone. It is an expression of my journey and an invitation for others to pause, and connect.”

- Tina Thomas

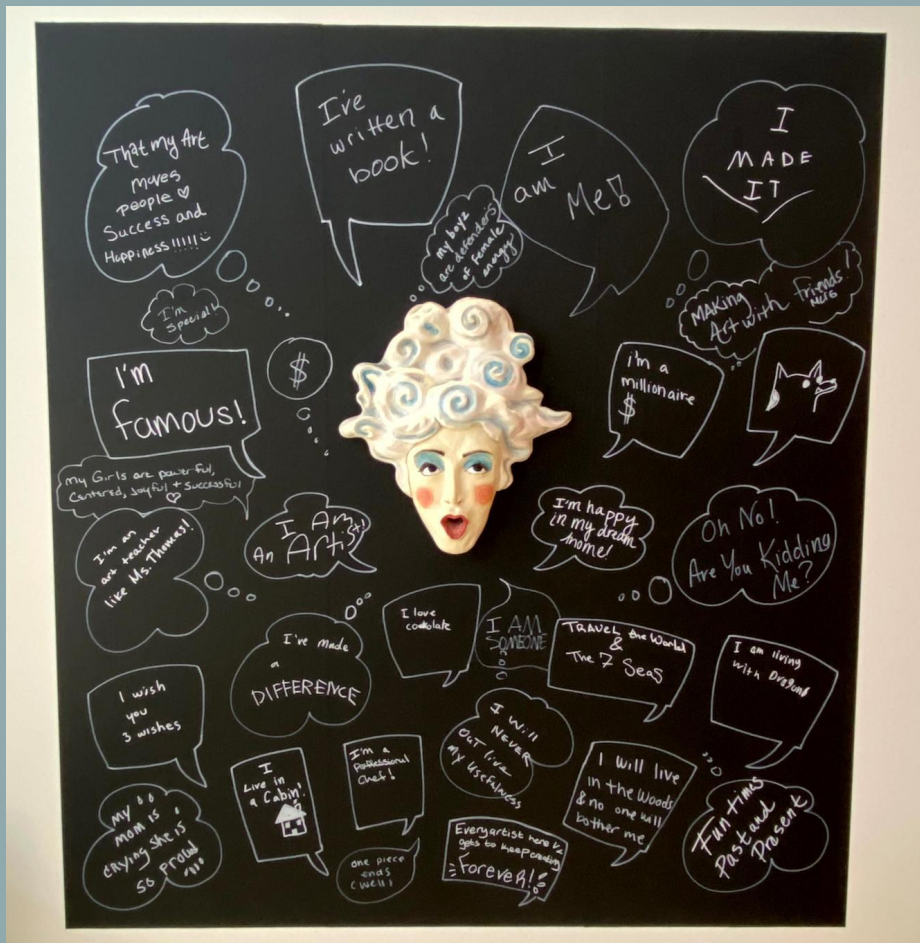




Love is Universal (Installation piece)

Foam board, papier-mâché, wire, acrylic
paint

2025



“Head in the Clouds”

White Stoneware, stains, underglazes,
acrylic paint



“Spring has Sprung”

White stoneware, stains, under glaze,
cold finish paint, stains

2025



“Waiting for Spring”

White Stoneware, underglaze and stains

2024



“Summer Song”

White Stoneware, underglaze, stains

2025



“The Chase”

White Stoneware,
underglaze, stains

2025



“Poor Me” Some Tea, Lily series 1

White stoneware, underglaze, acrylic
paint



“Balance, Lily series”

White Stoneware, underglaze,
acrylic paint



“Heading to the ballet, Lily series”

White Stoneware, underglaze,
acrylic paint





“Head Space”

White, Stoneware, underglazes, natural stains

2024



“Dreamers” Series

White stoneware, glaze, wire

2023



“Warrior II “

white stoneware, stains, under glaze, glaze

2023



“Mother's Protection”

Stoneware with grog, underglazes, stains

2023



“Harmony”

White Stoneware, underglaze, glaze

2025



“You are Beautiful”

White stoneware, underglaze, stains,
pan pastels

2025



“Mom's Emotions 1”

White stoneware, underglaze, stains, pan
pastels

2025



“Maybe Next Time”

White stoneware, underglaze, stains,
pan pastels

2025



“Mom's Emotions 3”

White stoneware, underglaze, stains,
pan pastels

2025



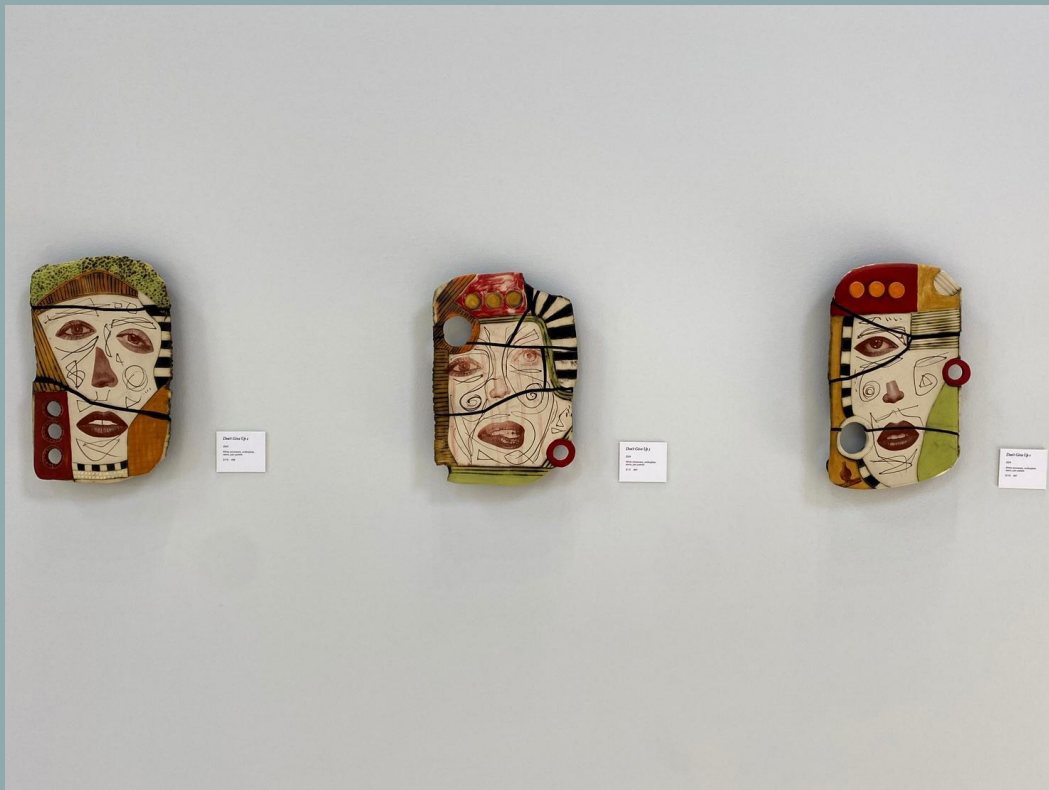
“Waiting”

White stoneware, underglaze, stains, pan pastels
2025



“I Didn’t Do It”

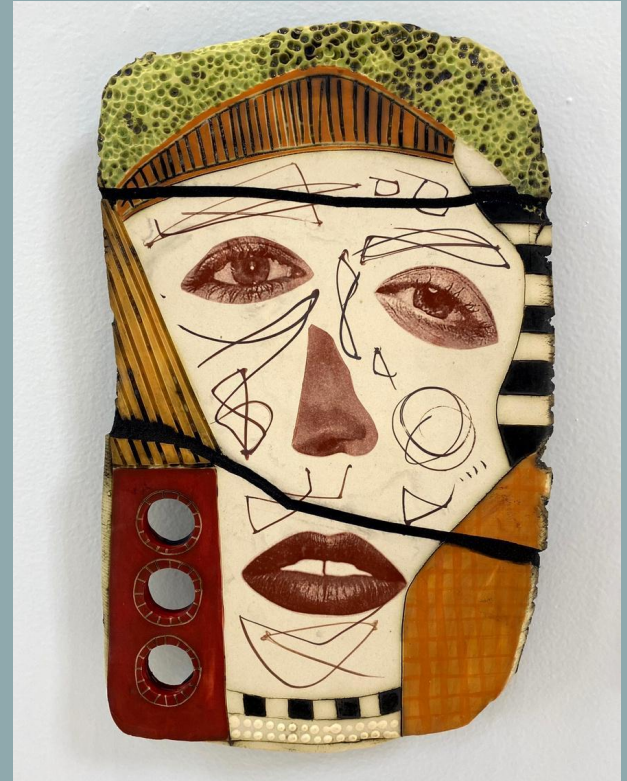
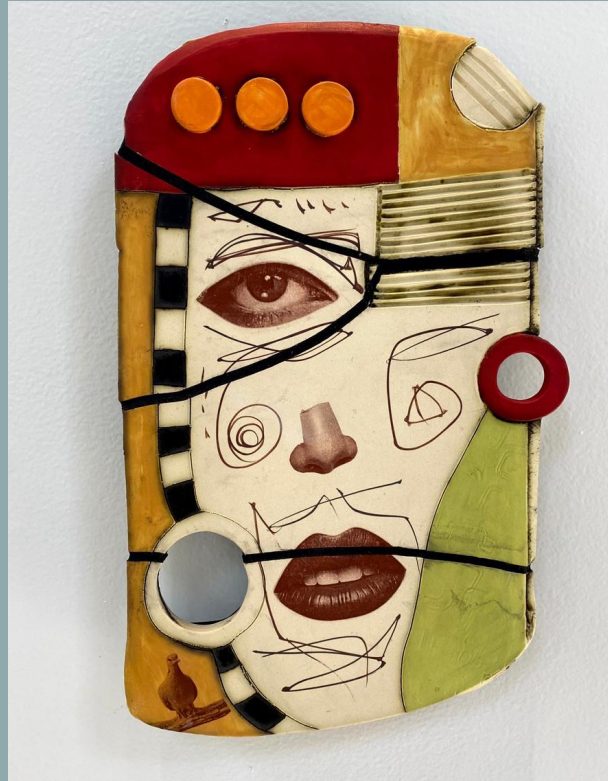
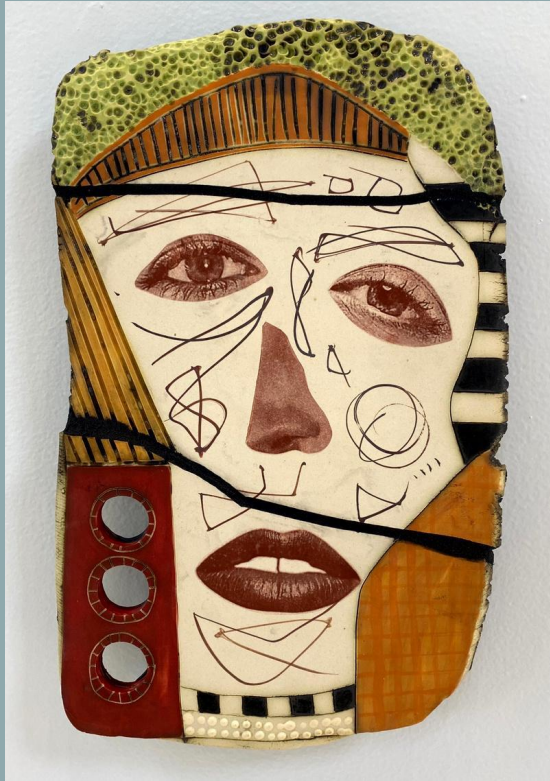
White stoneware, underglaze, stains, pan pastels
2025



“Don’t Give Up Series” 1, 2, & 3

White stoneware, stains, under glaze,
cold finish paint, grout

2024



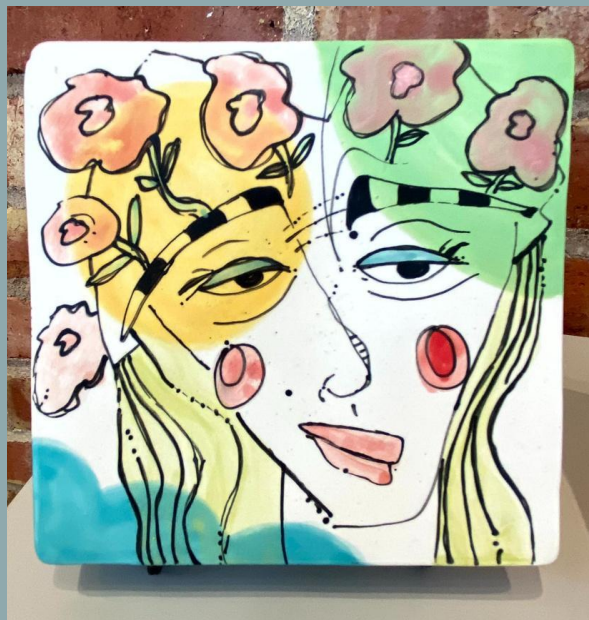




“Happy Face and Bird Tiles”

Porcelain, Slip casted, underglaze

2025



“Happy Face and Bird Tiles”

Porcelain, Slip casted, underglaze

2025



“Winds of Change Quilted Vase”

???

???



“Swirl Quilted Vase”

???



*“Moving Winds Quilted
Vase”*

???



“Sambandha DNA 1”

White stoneware, stains,
underglaze, cold finish paint



“Sambandha DNA 2”

White stoneware, stains,
underglaze, cold finish paint



“Winds Have Shifted”

White stoneware, underglaze,
glaze

2025



“Joys of Motherhood”

White Stoneware, stains, underglazes,
acrylic paint

“Trials of Motherhood”

White Stoneware, stains, underglazes,
acrylic paint



The Power of a Hand-Made Tea Bowl

“My journey into making tea bowls began after I was invited to a small healing ceremony held for a dear friend who was navigating a difficult time. During the gathering, we meditated together, focusing on our inner child and channeling healing energy. Afterward, in a moment that felt deeply sacred, our friend served us tea in handmade tea bowls while we sat in a circle. That simple act, sharing tea from a vessel formed by hand, left a lasting impression on me. It awakened something within, reminding me of the power held in handmade objects, and how they can carry intention, presence, and love from maker to user. That experience became the seed of my tea bowl practice. I began exploring the form with curiosity and joy, experimenting with different shapes and surface techniques. Each bowl became a meditation in itself, a reflection of process, emotion, and the quiet energy I poured into it. I was fascinated by how these humble vessels could embody warmth, comfort, and connection. I created more than a hundred tea bowls, each one a small offering, a soft place to land. Through them, I found a new way to share healing, not only with others but also with myself.” - Tina Thomas





“Teatime”

White Stoneware, stains, underglaze, glaze



“Quilted Teabowls”

Porcelain, underglaze, stains,
glaze

2025



“Quilted Teabowls”

Porcelain, underglaze,
stains, glaze

2025



“Quilted Teabowls”

Porcelain, underglaze,
stains, glaze

2025



“Quilted Teabowls”

Porcelain, underglaze,
stains, glaze

2025



***“Love is Universal Bird
Teabowl”***

Porcelain, underglaze, glaze
2025



“Bird Teabowl”

Porcelain, underglaze, glaze
2025



“Bird Teabowl”

Porcelain, underglaze, glaze
2025



“Small Red Relief Teabowl”

Porcelain, Glaze

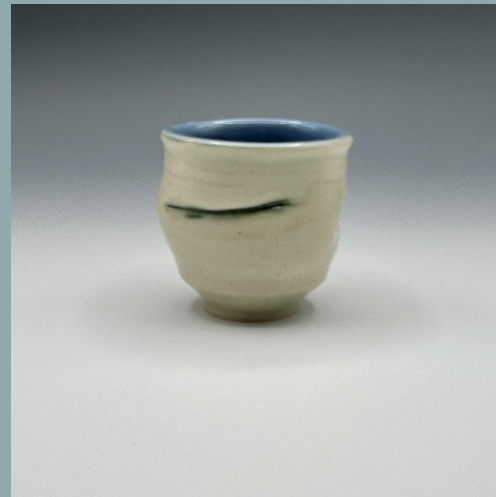
2025



“Small polka dot Teabowl”

Porcelain, underglaze, glaze

2025



“Small squished Teabowl”

Porcelain, underglaze, glaze

2025



“Bird Teabowl”

Porcelain, underglaze, glaze

2025



***“Love is universal Bird
Teabowl”***

Porcelain, underglaze, glaze

2025



“Bird Teabowl”

Porcelain, underglaze, glaze

2025



*“Tea in the Clouds Sky
Blue”*

White Stoneware,
underglaze, glaze
2024



“Soft Place to Jade Cloud Teabowl Set”

Porcelain, white stoneware,
underglaze, stain, glaze

2024



“Soft Place to Land Spiral Rain Cloud Teabowl Set”

Porcelain, white stoneware,
underglaze, stain, glaze

2024



Tea in the Clouds Jade

White Stoneware,
underglaze, glaze

2024



“Bird Teabowl”

Porcelain, underglaze, glaze

2025



“Slippy Slip Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze

2025



“Slippy Slip Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze

2025



“Slippy Slip Teabowl”

Porcelain, underglaze, glaze

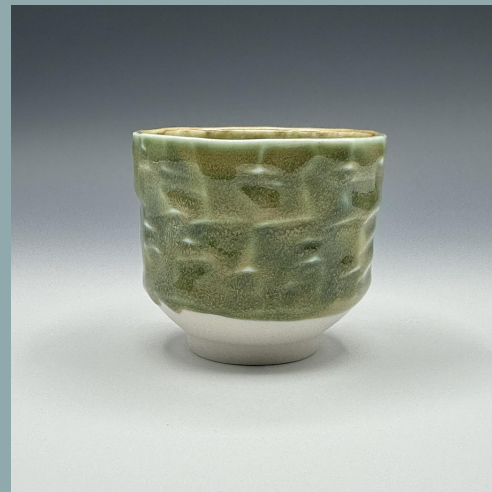
2025



“Slippy Slip Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze

2025



“Slippy Slip Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze

2025



“Faceted Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze

2025



“Slippy Slip Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze

2025



“Slippy Slip Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze

2025



“Slippy Slip Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze

2025



“Slippy Slip Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze

2025



“Pink Polkadot Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze

2025



*“Black Polkadot
Teabowl”*

Porcelain, stains, glaze
2025



“Striped Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze
2025



“Aspen Teabowl”

White stoneware, underglaze
transfer, glaze
2025



*“Soft Place to Land, Blue Rain
Teabowl Set”*

Porcelain, underglaze, stains, glaze

2025



“Flower Teabowl”

White stoneware, underglaze
transfer, glaze

2025



“Frosted Teabowl”

Porcelain, stain, glaze.
2023



“Slippy Slip Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze
2023



“Slippy Slip Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze

2023



“Faceted Teabowl”

Porcelain, stains, glaze

2023



“Wood Fired Bird Teabowl”

Stoneware, underglaze, glaze

2025



*“Wood Fired Quilted
Teabowl”*

Stoneware, underglaze, glaze.

2025



*“Wood Fired Quilted
Teabowl”*

Stoneware, underglaze, glaze.

2025



*“Wood Fired Quilted
Teabowl”*

Stoneware, underglaze, glaze.

2025



“Soft Place to Land Teabowl Set”

Porcelain, white stoneware,
underglaze, stain, glaze

2024



“Soft Place to Land Teabowl Set”

Porcelain, white stoneware,
underglaze, stain, glaze

2024



“Soft Place to Land Lotus Teabowl Set”

Porcelain, white stoneware,
underglaze, stain, glaze

2024



“Soft Place to Land Sunset Cloud Teabowl Set”

Porcelain, white stoneware,
underglaze, stain, glaze

2024



“Wood Fired Teabowl”

Stoneware, underglaze, glaze.

2025



“Wood Fired Bird Teabowl”

Stoneware, underglaze, glaze.

2025



“Wood Fired Bird Teabowl”

Stoneware, underglaze, glaze.

2025



“Faces Teabowl”

Stoneware, underglaze, glaze.

2025



***“Love is Universal Bird
Teabowl”***

Porcelain, underglaze, glaze

2025



“Faces Teabowl”

Stoneware, underglaze, glaze.

2025



***“Soft Place to Land Sunset
Cloud Teabowl Set”***

Porcelain, white stoneware,
underglaze, stain, glaze

2024



***“Soft Place to Land Sunset
Cloud Teabowl Set”***

Porcelain, white stoneware,
underglaze, stain, glaze

2024



***“Love is Universal Bird
Teabowl”***

Porcelain, underglaze, glaze

2025



“Other Teabowls”

2025



“Other Teabowls”

2025





Apex in Color
 2011
 100% cotton, 100% cotton, 100% cotton
 100% cotton, 100% cotton



“Textures of Nature”

Porcelain slip, iron oxide
photograph transfers,
underglaze
2024



“Aspens in Color”

White stoneware, stains, and
underglazes

2023





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