

Delores Fortuna - Bio

Childhood:

Grew up on dairy farm in northern Wisconsin. Contacted polio at 14 months, rehab at Sister Kenny Institute and 8 orthopedic operations allowed walking at the age of 16 without leg braces and crutches, return of post-polio syndrome necessitated return to the use of canes for stability.

Education:

High school valedictorian; BFA, MFA (honors) from the University of Chicago, 1972; studying ceramics with Ruth Duckworth

Teaching:

Antioch University, St. Xavier's University, The School of Art Institute of Chicago (retired 2015); art centers: Lill Street and Hyde Park Art Center; workshops: Ox-Bow/SAIC, Ozark College of the Arts, Adamah, Fine Line Center for the Arts, Kirkwood College, Blackhawk College, MTC/Madison, Kansas City Arts Center, Parkland College, Bradley University, Iowa Ceramics Center. Fine Line Creative Arts Center, Watermark Center for the Arts.

Professional Achievements:

International Exhibitions: Japan (Mino), Taiwan (Yeigei), Italy, France, Finland, Mexico, Canada

National Exhibitions:

NCECA Biennial, Awards: (Best of Show): River to River, Central Time Zone, San Angelo, Topeka National, Materials Hard and Soft, It's Only Clay, Art of Possibilities.

Business Development:

Oak Park Pottery, ArtWorks in Oak Park (now Terra Incognitio) offering classes, working artist's studios, residencies and gallery.

Studio Tours:

Developed Holiday Lights Tour (Oak Park), Twenty Dirty Hands Pottery Tour (Galena)

Art Fairs:

Best of Show awards (ceramics): St. Louis, Plaza (Kansas City), Uptown (Minneapolis), Art on the Square (Madison), Laumeier, (Kansas City) Brookside (Kansas City), Marion, College Park (Cedar Falls), 57th (Chicago), Lakefront Arts Festival (Milwaukee), Appleton, Cambridge Pottery Festival and Philadelphia Museum Craft show (2020).

Publications:

"500 Teapots," Lark Books, Ceramics Monthly, Clay Times, Madison Essentials

Collections:

Continental Clay, Minneapolis MN
Dubuque Museum of Art, Dubuque IA.
Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, Topeka KS
Bemidji Center for the Arts, Bemidji MN
Prudential Insurance, Dubuque IA
Kansas City Ceramics Center, Kansas City KS

Summation:

Delores Fortuna grew up in northern Wisconsin on a dairy farm, overcame the paralysis of polio, attended the University of Chicago, BFA, MFA studying with Ruth Duckworth; taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago retiring 2015. Her work has been exhibited both internationally and nationally winning numerous awards and in many private and public collections.