The Artists of “Clayblazers”
The artists featured in “Clayblazers” were able to rise to prominence thanks to women who paved the way in the field of ceramics with their ambition, innovation and recognition. These pioneers of pottery include the Overbeck sisters, who created and ran Overbeck Pottery from their home during the Great Depression, and Maria Longworth Nichols, who founded Rookwood Pottery at a time when it was revolutionary for a woman to operate – let alone own – a company. One of the best known trailblazers of the 20th century, Adelaide Alsop Robineau, was the creator of the periodical “Keramic Studio.”

Of the six creative Overbeck sisters, four were potters: Margaret, Hannah, Elizabeth and Mary Frances. These four women established their own factory based out of their home called Overbeck Pottery. From 1911 to 1955, the sisters were known for their fanciful figurines, their skill in matte glazes and their stylized designs of plants and animals in the Art Nouveau and Art Deco styles. They experimented with glazes, keeping the formulations they used a secret, and developed the signature color, Robin’s Egg Blue. None of the sisters ever married, instead dedicating their lives to their craft. The sisters briefly suffered during the Great Depression of the 1930s, but received financial assistance from the New Deal Program in recognition of their work. The other two Overbeck sisters, Harriet and Ida, expressed their creativity through music and photography.

Maria Longworth Nichols founded Rookwood Pottery in the late 19th century. Created, owned and operated by a woman (revolutionary for the time), Rookwood Pottery is still functioning today and employs about 70 people. She was also one of the founding members of The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the state of Ohio.

Adelaide Alsop Robineau is regarded as one of the most influential ceramicists in the American Arts and Crafts Movement and is best known for her work with porcelain. Like the Overbeck sisters, she was one of the few women who held a career as a potter at the time. Her most popular piece is “The Scarab Vase,” utilizing an Egyptian motif of a scarab beetle.

Mary Louise McLaughlin was president of the Cincinnati Pottery Club and a fundamental part of the Cincinnati Art Pottery Movement, which helped popularize china painting within the field of ceramics. She wrote “China Painting,” inspired by many aspiring women artists, and is credited with creating new underglaze methods. Her techniques and teaching helped to further expand interest in china painting.

Laura Anne Fry worked at Rookwood Pottery, the company founded by Maria Longworth Nichols. Fry led classes and is credited with creating a new technique for underglaze application. In the late 19th century, she became head of the Art Department at Purdue University in Indiana. Before she was a potter, Fry specialized in wood carving and took the first place prize in designing the organ screen for the Cincinnati Music Hall. She was also one of the first members of the Cincinnati Pottery Club.
Artist Facts

Laura Andreson (1902–1999)
American, born in San Bernardino, California; died in Los Angeles, California

Career
• Received her MFA at Columbia University.
• In 1933, Andreson created the first ceramics program on the West Coast of the United States at the University of California, Los Angeles.
• In 1946, one of her pieces became the first craft work in the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA).
• Started working in porcelain in 1957, a medium that had previously only been used commercially.

Did you know? She is credited with developing a “reversed” craft process, in which she created her glaze first, then the piece or vessel.

Cynthia Bringle (b. 1939)
American, born in Memphis, Tennessee

Career
• Received her MFA from the New York State College of Ceramics, Alfred University in New York.
• Best known for her intricate details on the surface of her work.
• Bringle opened the doors to her first studio in Memphis, Tennessee in 1965.

Did you know? She has several honors and awards, including the Life Membership from Southern Highland Craft Guide, the North Carolina Award for Fine Art, and an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from the Memphis College of Art.
**Virginia Cartwright** (b. 1943)  
American, born in Los Angeles, California

**Career**
- Received her MFA for American Craftsmen from the Rochester Institute of Technology.
- Studied with Franz Wildenhain (Marguerite Wildenhain’s husband) at the same university, as well as at Pond Farm.
- Known for leaving the surface of her work unglazed and usually carved into.
- Began teaching ceramics in 1966.

**Did you know?** Some of her collection can be found in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in Los Angeles, California, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Renwick Gallery, Washington DC, and Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State in Logan, Utah.

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**Rose Cabat** (1914–2015)  
American, born in New York City, New York; died in Tucson, Arizona

**Career**
- Attended the University of Hawaii.
- In 1942, moved to Arizona.
- Known for her unique pieces she called “feelies,” which were typically shaped like figs, onions and small bowls.
- Her husband, Erni, built Rose her first pottery wheel by converting a washing machine.
- Created a glaze to compliment the shape of her feelies.

**Did you know?** Rose lived to be 100 years old.
**Stephanie De Lange** (b. 1944)  
American, born in Los Angeles, California

**Career**
- Received a BFA from the University of California, Los Angeles, followed by her MFA in 1971.
- Worked under fellow artist Laura Andreson at University of California, Los Angeles.
- Known for capturing nature in her work.

**Did you know?** Recently, De Lange taught as an adjunct faculty member at Pepperdine University in California.

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**Dora DeLarios** (1933–2018)  
American, born in Los Angeles, California; died in Culver City, California

**Career**
- Inspired by her Mexican heritage and influenced by other cultures, such as ancient Japan.
- Created her own creatures within her work.
- Attended the University of Southern California, where she studied with Vivika and Otto Heino.

**Did you know?** De Larios was one of 14 artists given the honor of designing tableware for the White House during Jimmy Carter's presidency.
Betty Davenport Ford (b. 1924)
American, born in Upland, California

Career
• Received her MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan.
• Known for her pieces that capture the forms of animals in her specific style.
• Studied with Maija Grotell.

Did you know? Ford was youngest artist ever to be invited to the Dalzell Hatfield Gallery to display her artwork.

Ruth Duckworth (1919–2009)
German, born in Hamburg, Germany; died in Chicago, Illinois

Early Life
• Fled Germany during the Nazi regime because of her Jewish descent in order to study art.

Career
• Pursued an education at the Liverpool School of Art.
• Noted as one of the first artists in England at the time that was focused on sculpture in form rather than functional ware.
• Received two honorary Doctorates: one from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, and the other from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan.

Did you know? Before Duckworth was known for ceramics, she sculpted mainly with wood and stone until she met fellow artist, Lucie Rie, who sparked her interest in the field.

Betty Davenport Ford (b. 1924)
American, born in Upland, California

Career
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Did you know? Ford was youngest artist ever to be invited to the Dalzell Hatfield Gallery to display her artwork.
Viola Frey (1933–2004)
American, born in Lodi, California; died in Oakland, California

Career
• Received her BFA from the California College of the Arts in 1956.
• In the 1960s, she became part of the Funk Movement in the Bay Area.
• Started teaching at the California College of Arts and Crafts in 1965.
• Inspired by the female figure and the strong women she saw working in the fields during her youth.
• Created large scale figures that had to be cut into pieces in order to fire.
• Collected kitschy figurines from flea markets and utilized their forms in her work.

Did you know? Frey worked with Betty Woodman and told her female students that if they wanted to be artists they could not be wives. In 2003, California College of Arts and Crafts established the Viola Frey Chair in Fine Arts.

Andrea Gill (b. 1948)
American, born in Newark, New Jersey

Career
• Received her MFA from from the New York College of Ceramics at Alfred University in 1976.
• In 1978, she worked with ASU ceramics instructor Kurt Weiser at the Archie Bray Foundation.
• Decided to make the change from painting to ceramics following a trip to Italy and seeing Picasso’s ceramic work.
• Her recent work focuses on creating tableware that is decorative or functional.
• Creates bowls and vases because they allow for a variety of interpretations of the form, while her large pieces are intended to replicate the painter’s canvas and allow for more freedom of expression.

Did you know? Gill was honored in 2012 with the Peter Voulkos Fellowship from the Archie Bray Foundation.
Maija Grotell (1899–1973)
American, born in Helsinki, Finland; died in Pontiac, Michigan

Career
• Called the “Mother of American Ceramics.”
• In 1936, she became the first woman to win a prize in the Ceramic National.
• Appointed as a faculty member at Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1938.
• Her work is featured in 21 museum collections.
• Mentor to artists Toshiko Takaezu, Betty Davenport Ford and Frances Senska.

Did you know? Grotell’s mother was an artist. Grotell won 25 major exhibition awards and spoke six languages.

Judith Gilmour (1937–2003)
Scottish, born Edinburgh, Scotland

Career
• Studied at the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland.
• Her work consisted of textured sculptures that incorporated the use of dry glazes and oxides in combination with slip and over painting.

Did you know? Gilmour’s work is displayed in museums across the globe, from the Charles A. Wustum Museum in Wisconsin to the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.
Vivika Heino (1910–1995)
American, born in Caledonia, New York; died in Ojai, California

Career
- Studied at the California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute) with Glen Lukens.
- In 1939, her pots were exhibited at the Golden Gate International Exposition.
- Received an MFA from New York State College at Alfred University in 1941.
- In 1955, she was invited to reorganize the ceramics department at the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles.
- Taught for two years at the Rhode Island School of Design in the 1960s.
- One of her students was Dora De Larios.

Did you know? Vivika and Otto made 751 pots for the movie “The Egyptian” in 1953. When they moved to California to retire, they brought 29 tons of material with them across the country and bought a house built by Beatrice Wood.

Catharine Hiersoux (b. 1938)
American, born in Los Angeles, California

Career:
- In 1973, Hiersoux’s work was included in the exhibition “Seven Women Potters” alongside Nancy Selvin and Marilyn Levine.
- Owns Hiersoux Gallery in the San Francisco Bay area.

Did you know? Hiersoux was one of the 37 artists chosen to create table settings to be used at a White House Senate Ladies Luncheon in 1977. The works then traveled nationally in an exhibition entitled American Crafts in the White House.

Otto Heino (1915–2009)
American, born in East Hampton, Connecticut; died in Ojai, California

Career
- Studied at the California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute) with Glen Lukens.
- In 1939, her pots were exhibited at the Golden Gate International Exposition.
- Received an MFA from New York State College at Alfred University in 1941.
- In 1955, she was invited to reorganize the ceramics department at the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles.
- Taught for two years at the Rhode Island School of Design in the 1960s.
- One of her students was Dora De Larios.
Karen Karnes (1925–2016)
American, born in New York City, New York; died in Morgan, Vermont

Career
• Graduated from Brooklyn College with a degree in design in 1946.
• Learned how to use a potter’s wheel in Italy.
• From 1952 to 1954, she was the potter-in-residence at Black Mountain College.
• Invented a fireproof casserole dish that could be placed directly on the stove.
• In 1967, she began to use salt in her firings.
• Started to create more abstract pieces after her house fire in 1998.

Did you know? In 1998, both Karnes’s home and studio were consumed by a fire that began in her kiln. The community rallied and raised funds to help Karnes rebuild.

Hazel Johnston (1933–2011)
English, born in Cumbria, England

Career
• Received her education from the Manchester College of Art.
• A member of the Craft Potters Association as well as the Royal Society of Arts.
• Known for producing pieces incorporating metal oxides and gold lusters.

Did you know? Johnston’s work can be found in galleries around the world, ranging from the University of Arizona to the Pernath Collection in Switzerland.
Janet Leach (1918–1997)
American, born in Grand Saline, Texas; died in Cornwall, England

Career
• First foreign woman to study pottery abroad in Japan.
• Studied at Black Mountain, North Carolina under Shōji Hamada.
• Traveled to Japan to continue to learn from Hamada.

Did you know? Leach’s husband, Bernard Leach, was friends with Lucie Rie.

Marilyn Anne Levine (1935–2005)
Canadian, born in Medicine Hat, California; died in Oakland, California

Career
• Began her career as a chemist specializing in analytical inorganic chemistry and in 1959 received an MS from University of Alberta in chemistry.
• Received an MA from University of California, Berkeley in 1970, followed by an MFA in 1971.
• Her pieces primarily represent leather goods.
• Created an art studio with Peter Voulkos.
• She first began mixing fiberglass with clay to give the clay tensile strength when it was wet.

Did you know? Levine was inspired to replicate leather clothing and items because of the stories they represented.
Mary Lindheim (1912–2004)
American, born in Newton, New Jersey; died in Bolinas, California

Career
• Received her education from the School of Fine Arts in California as well as the Chouinard Art Institute.
• She was invited to display work at the New York World’s Fair in 1939.
• In 1946, she studied at the California College of Arts and Crafts.
• Helped create a place for studio craft exhibitions in the San Francisco Museum of Art (SFMOMA).
• Helped open the doors to the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum.

Did you know? Lindheim appeared in a Hollywood film alongside Joan Crawford.

Lucy M. Lewis (1895–1992)
Acoma Pueblo, born in Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico; died in Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico

Career
• Did not receive a formal education and was instead trained by Acoma Pueblo women.
• Known for her use of a black-on-white technique.
• Regarded as one of the greatest Pueblo potters.

Did you know? Seven of Lewis’s children went on to also become well-known potters.
Janet Mansfield (1934–2013)
Australian, born in Sydney, Australia

Career
• Received her education from the National Art School at the East Sydney Technical College, where she studied ceramics.
• As well as being known for her work in ceramics, she also held several other important positions as an exhibitor and a diplomat.
• In 1987, she received the Medal of the Order of Australia, one of the highest honors a person can receive.

Did you know? Mansfield created her own publishing company called the Mansfield Press.

Irene Mark
American

Desperately seeking information on Irene Mark! We’ve tried for years to learn more about this artist, but she remains a mystery to us.

Do you know anything about her? If so, please contact Andrea Feller, Curator of Education, at andrea.feller@asu.edu. We would appreciate a bibliography connection.
Nan Bangs McKinnell (1913–2005)
American, born in Stanton, Nebraska; died in Fort Collins, Colorado

Career
• Received her MFA in Ceramics from the University of Washington in 1948.
• She and her husband, Jim McKinnell, studied under Peter Voulkos and Marguerite Wildenhain.
• Developed a copper red glaze that is still widely used by artists to this day.
• Nan and Jim both taught at a series of universities including Alfred University, Edinburgh College of Art and Colorado State University.

Did you know? In 1988, Nan and Jim were inducted into the American Craft Council College of Fellows.

Maria Poveka Martinez (1887–1980)
Tewa, born in San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico; died in San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico

Career
• Best known for the black-on-black pottery that she developed with her husband, Julian.
• In 1925, Maria and Julian won “Best of Show” at the New York State Fair and “Best of Show” at the Chicago World’s Fair in 1933.
• In 1934, she became the first woman to receive a bronze medal for Indian Achievement by the Indian Fire Council.
• Retired from commercial pottery making in 1970.
• Because of her skills and her willingness to share her talents, the San Ildefonso Pueblo is a thriving craft center today.

Did you know? Martinez’s Tewa name was Po-Ve-Ka, which means “Pond Lily” and she taught her four sons her craft.
Emma Lewis Mitchell (1931–2013)
Acoma Pueblo, born in Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico; died in Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico

Career
• Carried down the same traditional techniques used by her mother (Lucy Lewis) and ancestors.
• Did not conform to contemporary styles.
• Worked with Mimbres and Anasazi Revival black-on-white and polychrome ollas, jars, bowls, seedpots, plates and owl figures.
• Shown at the Santa Fe Indian Market in 1960 and won many 1st place awards over the four decades of her participation.

Did you know? Mitchell’s work can be found in the Brooklyn Museum of Arts, the Maxwell Museum and in Harvard’s Wright Collection at the Peabody Museum, among others.

Fannie Nampeyo (1900–1987)
Hopi-Tewa, born in First Mesa, Arizona; died in Hopi Reservation, Arizona

Career
• Her mother was the famous “Old Lady Nampeyo of Hano.”
• Had a formal education until third grade and worked with her mother.
• Became the matriarch figure of the Hopi Tewa Corn Clan, a role previously held by her mother.
• Known for the design of migration patterns.

Did you know? Nampeyo had seven children, who, like all of her own siblings, all went on to practice pottery.
**Gertrud Natzler** (1908–1971)
Austrian, born in Vienna, Austria; died in Los Angeles, California

**Career**
- In 1934, both Gertrud and Otto studied ceramics with Franz Iskra in Vienna.
- They opened their own ceramics workshop in 1935.
- Fled Germany in 1938 and moved to Los Angeles, to escape the Nazi-occupied Austria.
- Retrospectives of their work were held after Gertrud’s death at the Renwick Gallery (1973), Craft and Folk Museum (1977).
- In 2001, Gertrud was posthumously awarded the Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship of the American Craft Council with her husband Otto.

**Did you know?** Getrud worked in collaboration with her husband Otto Natzler for almost 4 decades. She threw clay and formed it into pristine vessels, which were then glazed and fired by Otto. Otto created several thousand glaze formulas, bringing exceptional color and texture to her thrown pieces.

**Otto Natzler** (1908–2007)
Austrian, born in Vienna, Austria; died in Los Angeles, California

**Career**
- Received an MFA from New York State College of Ceramics, Alfred University.
- She and her family were sent to a Japanese internment camp in Wyoming.
- Met her mentor, Daniel Rhodes, in Wyoming, who later helped her escape the internment camp.
- Credited with implementing and creating the first ceramics major at the University of Connecticut as well as creating a studio there.
- Her work has been exhibited in the Smithsonian Institution, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London.

**Did you know?** Negoro perfected her wheel throwing skills while at the internment camp.
Susan H. Peterson (1925–2009)
American, born in McPherson, Kansas; died in Scottsdale, Arizona

Career
- Received an MFA in Ceramics at New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in 1950.
- Became the head of the ceramics department at the University of Southern California in the 1950s.
- Researched, wrote and taught about all aspects of ceramics and its history.
- Created ceramic programs at five different institutions, including Hunter College of the City University in New York.

Did you know? Peterson donated her archives and ceramics collection to Arizona State University Art Museum Ceramics Research Center. She won the Charles Fergus Binns Award and the National Council of Education of the Ceramic Arts Lifetime Achievement Award. All three of her children became artists.

Elsa Rady (1943–2011)
American, born in New York City, New York; died in Culver City, California

Career
- Received her education from the Chouinard Art School in Los Angeles, California.
- Studied with Otto and Vivika Heino.
- Known for her exemplary contemporary work with porcelain pieces that have jagged edges that give the art a centralizing motion.

Did you know? Rady’s artwork can be found in museums across the country, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Renwick Gallery, Washington, D.C., the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York, and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California.
Mary Rogers  
(b. 1929)  
English, born in Derbyshire, United Kingdom

**Career**
- Studied ceramics at Loughborough School of Art.
- In 1960, she set up her own ceramics studio and focused on hand-built vessels.
- Started working with porcelain clay in 1968.
- Retired in 1990.

**Did you know?** Rogers studied graphic design and calligraphy and worked for several years as a graphic designer and calligrapher before focusing on ceramics.

Lucie Rie  
(1902–1995)  
Austrian, born in Vienna, Austria; died in London, United Kingdom

**Career**
- Studied at an art school called Kunstgewerbeschule; known as the School of Art and Design in Vienna.
- Fled from the Nazi regime to Britain during her studies.
- Started making ceramic buttons, then her pottery transformed into more functional pieces, like tableware.
- Known for her use of Modernist forms and vivid coloring.
- Given the title of Dame Commander.

**Did you know?** Before Rie went to art school, she was influenced by Sigund Freud, who was part of her family’s social circle.
Mary Scheier (1908–2007)
American, born in Salem, Virginia; died in Green Valley, Arizona

Ed Scheier (1910–2008)
American, born in New York City, New York; died in Green Valley, Arizona

Career
- Studied at the Art Students League of New York.
- In 1939, Mary set up a studio with her husband Ed. The functional pottery she used was decorated with the glazes Ed made.
- In 1940, both Mary and Ed began teaching at the University of New Hampshire. Mary replaced her husband when he served in WWII.
- Retired from art making in 1960.

Did you know? Scheier’s work can be found in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Craft Museum.

Frances Senska (1914–2009)
American, born in Grand Batanga, Cameroon; died in Bozeman, Montana

Career
- Known as the “mother of Montana art.”
- Taught at Montana State University for 27 years.
- Received an MFA from the University of Iowa.
- During WWII, she served in the United States Navy for four years.
- Studied at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, where she was taught by Maija Grotell.

Did you know? Senska taught both Rudy Autio and Peter Voulkos.
Toshiko Takaezu (1922–2011)
American, born in Pepeekeo, Hawaii; died in Honolulu, Hawaii

Career
• Enrolled in Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan in 1951.
• In 1955, she lived in a Zen Buddhist Monastery and studied aspects of the Japanese culture such as the tea ceremony.
• In the 1960s, she developed her signature style of closed form vessels, containers that held air and space.

Did you know? Takaezu started working in bronze toward the end of her career and created a series of bells, which explore the relationship between sculpture and sound.

Susanne Stephenson (b. 1935)
American, born in Canton, Ohio

Career
• Received her MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art.
• Taught at the University of Michigan (1960–61) and has been a professor of art at Eastern Michigan University since 1963.
• Inspired by bright colors from nature.
• Her work is featured in galleries all over the world.

Did you know? Stephenson has worked in ceramics for six decades! She runs Stephenson Studio with her husband John Stephenson.
Patti Warashina (b. 1940)
American, born in Spokane, Washington

Early Life
• As a child during WWII, her father's dental practice funds were seized, her home raided and her family’s bank accounts frozen due to their Japanese-American ancestry.

Career
• In the 1970s, she began using the human form to address issues pertaining to feminism, corporate greed and war.
• Produced pieces that took inspiration from the Funk movement in the Bay area but with their own interpretations.
• She was influenced by early art she saw in Italy, specifically Etruscan art, and also the tomb figures of Egyptian art.

Did you know? Warashina received 20 different awards and grants for her work.

Mary White (1926–2013)
British, born in Monmouthshire, Wales; died in Germany

Career
• Attended Goldsmiths College, UK.
• Known for her porcelain ceramics and using calligraphy on her works.
• Briefly taught at the Atlantic College in Glamorgan, Wales.

Did you know? White was a Fellow of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators.
**Paula Colton Winokur** (1936–2018)
American, born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Career**
- Received a BFA from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University.
- Studied at the graduate level at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University.
- Influenced by past civilizations, particularly the American West.
- Drawn to porcelain because of its delicate nature while simultaneously being resilient.
- Created large scale pieces that are interpretations of the natural world.
- Interested in how humans affect the landscape permanently.

**Did you know?** Winokur worked with lighter clays and would consider her side of the studio the “white side” while her partner, Robert Winokur, worked with darker clays, so she called his side of the studio the “dark side.”

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**Marguerite Wildenhain** (1896–1985)
American, born in Lyons, France; died in Guerneville, California

**Career**
- Trained at the German School, the Bauhaus.
- Emigrated to the United States in the 1930s.
- In the 1940s, she helped establish the renowned art school Pond Farm in Northern California with her husband.
- Known to have her students experiment and create their own glazes.

**Did you know?** Besides being known for her pottery and functional pieces, Wildenhain is also known for her writings.
Beatrice Wood (1893–1998)
American, born in San Francisco, California; died in Ojai, California

Career
• A true Renaissance woman: an actress, potter, writer, painter.
• Friends with Marcel Duchamp and was introduced to the Dada movement.
• While visiting Europe she purchased dessert plates, and after returning home decided she wanted to make a matching teapot. With no pottery training, she enrolled in a ceramics class at Hollywood High School in Los Angeles. Within a couple of years she had her own shop and sold work to retailers such as Neiman Marcus.

Did you know? Wood was the inspiration for Rose in the movie “Titanic.” She worked until her death at 105, doing some of her most prolific work later in her life. The Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts still runs today in Ojai, California.

Betty Woodman (1930–2018)
American, born in Norwalk, Connecticut; died in New York City, New York

Career
• Went to the School for American Craftsmen at Alfred University.
• Met husband, painter/photographer George Woodman, when she taught her first ceramics class and he was her student.
• In 1981, her daughter Francesca Woodman, a photographer and video artist, committed suicide at the age of 22.
• Her posthumous recognition has labeled her one of the most influential female photographers of the late 20th century.
• Collaborated with Viola Frey.
• Used vivid colors and ornate details.

Did you know? Woodman was the first female ceramicist to be given a retrospective at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2006.
Bernice Zielke (1927–2017)
American

Desperately seeking information on Bernice Zielke! We've tried for years to learn more about this artist, but she remains a mystery to us.

Do you know anything about her? If so, please contact Andrea Feller, Curator of Education, at andrea.feller@asu.edu. We would appreciate a bibliography connection.

Thanks to Devynn O'Donnell, Ceramics Research Center Intern, and Museum Ambassadors, Crystal Ottoway and Madison Pennisi, for their research to make this biography collection possible.