



Marianne McGrath

Artist Statement

Inspired by the landscape of my agrarian childhood home now blanketed by suburban sprawl, my work is based on a contemplation of material, process, and object metaphors that juxtapose the medium of clay with industrial and reclaimed materials to create installations that speak of what I call landscapes lost. I strive for these works to be spaces and scenarios the viewer can physically or psychologically enter and inhabit, that call for one to pause and witness the result of my consideration of the changing landscapes that surround us.

I employ the medium of clay in unconventional ways, accenting the metaphorical capacity of the medium to communicate ideas of memory, ephemerality, and loss. Based primarily on forms from the now lost landscape of my childhood, the clay objects I create may be unfired and preserved in wax, or fired with raw or unexpected surfaces. I present these objects as physical tributes to a memory, marking both a landscape that I have experienced that no longer exists, and the actual tangible processes of object and memory making.

Artist Bio

Born into the fifth generation of a farming family in Oxnard, CA, Marianne McGrath received a BA in Ceramics and Biology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2001, and an MFA in Studio Art from the University of Texas at Austin in 2007. From 2008–2014, she was an Associate Professor of Art and the Head of the Sculpture and Ceramics Programs at Temple College, in Temple, Texas. From 2011–2014 Marianne served on the founding Executive Board of Directors for the Texas Sculpture Group—one of three branches of the International Sculpture Center, was a Curator and Coordinator for NCECA's Projects Space Exhibition, and exhibited widely throughout the US and Canada. Marianne has received numerous awards for both her creative and teaching practices throughout her career and various exhibition awards. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Art and Head of Ceramics at California State University.

[Visit McGrath's website for more information.](#)

Image Detail: Marianne McGrath, **Roots**, 2011, Earthenware, tree roots, 3' x 6' x 5'

