



a natural state

Artist: Billie Anne McKellar

Video 2: Nature

Winona Haire: When I think of the word “natural,” I can’t help but think of our Indian heritage. I think of, as far as the pottery goes, how much more natural can it be to know that you can take what God’s provided, what’s been buried under the ground, this wonderful clay and you can mix that with- you know, you can either make small pieces or mix it with the other - we have pipe and pan clay - mix the two pieces and make bigger pieces. But you’re using the environment. You’re using the environment, you’re using the most rawest nature element, which is the clay, and you make these incredibly beautiful pieces out of this clay, using the firing process, which is the natural wood that’s been provided, and the rest is left up to the natural environment. We don’t know how this piece is going to turn out until the firing is over, and that’s the beauty of it. So, it’s all the mystery that’s involved with it, and I can’t think of a tradition, in my mind, that’s any more natural than dealing with Catawba pottery from beginning to end, because it comes from the clay. When it’s all said and done, pieces through centuries, are found buried, back into the soil and dirt, and that’s a future- that’s a story yet to be told, when an archaeologist or someone finds a piece and you go out and you do an archaeology dig and you come across these pieces. That’s part of your tribe’s history being buried for however long until the future, it’s uncovered, and then the story begins again, wondering, who are these people? Where did this tradition come from? What was it made of? What were they trying to tell us? Why is this piece here? So, it’s the mystery, that’s the naturalness of it, that’s the beauty of it. *End.*