## The Artist Statement

In my opinion, if a person pays close attention to the environment s/he will uncover that art is a part of all things in this world, so it is omnipresent. I have found overwhelming joy in molding the environment to create ceramic art. My life is intertwined so closely to this art form that it is like the air that I breathe, because it is a crucial component of my life. Further, my art work is dynamic and encompasses the cycle of life because I allow the clay to evolve and develop into a beautiful and functional creation, ultimately turning the clay into what it was destined to become. I am grateful that my deep-seated passion for creating art by molding clay oftentimes becomes a source of inspiration for others—because it is the people whom enjoy my art that solidifies my work. When people gaze or stare at my pieces, which oftentimes represent nature and human nature, I hope that they feel the energy that penetrates every piece: that because we stem from the same life force unity becomes our destiny, and that each of us have the ability to challenge ourselves through creativity since we all originate from the same life source. So as I continue to expound on my potential as an artist, I hope to constantly make people curious about themselves and their universe, helping them to ask an inevitable question in life, "What can I do to make this world better for my children, grandchildren, and for all existing life forms?" By doing this, we all become artists because we all begin to create something special that becomes as important to life as the air that we breathe. This is why I became an artist and will forever create art.

**Kennard J. Copeland**