



# FIRED WORKS

ceramic exhibition and sale

April 14 - 22, 2023



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# GET FIRED UP FOR GEORGIA'S LARGEST POTTERY SHOW

*April 14 - 22, 2023*

Once again, Macon Arts Alliance is hosting Fired Works in the Round Building in Carolyn Crayton Park. The facility boasts high and spacious ceilings and bountiful light that seems to bring the pottery to life. It is the perfect location for this signature event.

This year's featured artist is Alicia David, a Macon-based potter who is known for whimsical hand-built work. Along with David, 50 master potters from around the Southeast will bring thousands of functional and decorative pieces. Selected pieces will be available for purchase online at [maconarts.org/shop](http://maconarts.org/shop).

"Supporting artists through commission sales is an important part of our work," Julie Wilkerson, Executive Director of Macon Arts Alliance, said. "Last year, we returned over \$73,000 to artists in commissions from sales at Fired Works and Fire & Ice."

The event opens to the public and online at [maconarts.org/shop](http://maconarts.org/shop) at 10 a.m. April 14. Thursday, April 20, will feature a Happy Hour and extended shopping from 4 – 6 p.m. The event will be open daily from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fired Works highlights the rich history of pottery-making in Central Georgia and its

connection to the Ocmulgee River region. Whether it is the deep red mud or "white gold" kaolin, potters around the world prefer Georgia clay. The nearby Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park is an excellent resource for the history of pottery-making in the area, with its noteworthy exhibit of functional pottery crafted by Native American artisans thousands of years ago. The park is one of this continent's richest sites for early artifacts and is where the oldest piece of stamped pottery found in North America was discovered in 1933. Fired Works celebrates the artists who continue this tradition today.



2 Above: Shoppers at Fired Works view work by 2022 featured artist Roger Jamison





*Alicia David*



*Glenn Dair*



*Jim Sandefur*



*Tammy Josephson*



*Esther Mech*



*Ronan Kyle Peterson*



*Dotti Taylor*



*Ginger Birdsey*



*Cindy Angliss*

FOR A FULL LIST OF PARTICIPATING ARTISTS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [MACONARTS.ORG](http://MACONARTS.ORG)





Above: Alicia David in her studio and her pottery

# ALICIA DAVID

## Would you like to introduce yourself?

My name is Alicia Bailey David, and I am a ceramic artist. I also sell and display work as A Punch of Color (my Etsy store). I grew up in Macon and have lived most of my life here. I have a very supportive engineer husband and a teenage daughter. I have a BA in art from Mercer, a MA in medical illustration (UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas), and a PhD in computing technology in education (Nova Southeastern University). I have taught computer graphics at the college level for over 20 years, and I currently teach part time at Central GA Technical College.

I have worked in a variety of media over the years: mosaic, fused glass, metalsmithing, textile arts, etc. For the last eight years my primary medium has been ceramics, but it isn't uncommon for me to work in mixed media for jewelry, sculpture, or wall art. I am a handbuilder exclusively. Some of my pieces are extremely simple in terms of form, but *heavily* decorated/illustrated. Other work might be all about the shape and form with only a single (or no) glaze. I make things I enjoy making and don't tend to do a lot of production work. Overall it would be fair to say that my work is quite varied. I work mostly in stoneware clay. I fire to Cone 5-6 in oxidation in an electric kiln.

## What does "being creative" mean to you?

Creative is a very broad term to me. My mother and sister used to say that they weren't creative

because they didn't do "art," and I disagreed with them. Put simply - I think to be creative is to try something new and to express yourself. Creative looks different on different people and at different times. Sometimes creativity "strikes" while you're cooking, or decorating your bedroom, or drawing, or assembling an outfit. Being creative thankfully isn't limited to the world of art.

## Can you describe a time when you first realized that creating was something you absolutely had to do?

I have made stuff or been encouraged to view myself as artistic since I was a small child, so I have a hard time pinpointing a "first" time. During my youth, I wove endless loop potholders, painted extensively, and made more than a few hideous Christmas ornaments that my mother continues to hang on her tree. (Bread dough ornaments can last decades if properly preserved!!)

When we travel for vacation I *cannot* go without some type of art materials. I took 10 pounds of clay on our beach vacation, and sketchbook and colored pencils when we went to Utah last summer. My family and friends know that it is a necessity for me.

## What inspires you?

Lots of things inspire me. I LOVE color, and pattern, and texture, and things that don't look too perfect. Those are all things I tend to incorporate into my

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own work. I love hand-dyed textiles and the colors that happen when the dyes meet and flow. I love it when I get some of those reactions with my glazes. And I love ceramic rattles. If an object is going to be made with a hollow space inside, why shouldn't it be a rattle?

**What kind of creative patterns, routines, and rituals do you have?**

I am a researcher and planner. This is partially my academic training, but also my basic personality. I think about a concept and sketch and think some more. I usually can make what I imagined, BUT I also work until the concept feels "done" to me. That might be three related items or thirty, but I cannot move on until I have worked the idea out of my system.

I also don't like to leave any of the clay I've cut off for the day unfinished. Some of my smaller items are things that were made from the "extra" end-of-day clay. Some of my favorite items from my own work happen when I find myself working in a more experimental fashion. Those moments of spontaneity - when I work with less conscious thought - are magical and impossible to plan.

I find that having too much free time stifles my work. For some reason I find it hard to get started when I don't feel some type of time constraint. Overall it is a bit of a balancing act; I must have enough time to get work done, but not too much time.

**What's your favorite thing you've ever created?**

I'm a mom, and obviously, I think my daughter is pretty amazing...

but artistically two things came to mind when I read the question and both were made when I was about 12. One, a quilted peacock textile piece, and two, a ceramic basket of mushrooms made during a workshop with Barbara Hutto. I have the peacock piece in my studio, and my sister has the mushroom basket in her family room. I certainly don't think they are my "best" work, but at the time they made me feel I'd achieved some type of artistic proficiency. I find neither of them embarrassing as an adult.

**What are you trying to communicate with your art?**

I make lots of different stuff - some is whimsical, some is minimal, and some is symbolic. There isn't a single message in my work, but I hope that all my work comes across as thoughtfully/carefully made.

A good bit of my work is functional, planters and vases mainly, but also some cups and plates. I don't throw, so the pieces are slabbed, pinched, or coil built. They aren't perfect. I see that as a feature rather than a bug. The pieces do their ordained task as well as a mass-produced equivalent, but they also have something extra...a uniqueness or quirkiness.

**Which creative medium would you love to pursue, but haven't yet?**

I have worked in warm glass (kiln-formed glass), but not hot glass. I've always found it fascinating and beautiful, and I wish that I could do it. I know myself well enough *not* to try because I am massively heat intolerant and clumsy. I'd burn my feet off or

catch something on fire. There are some pottery techniques, like Raku, that I love but don't do because of my heat/clumsiness limitations.

**What's the best advice you ever had about how to be more creative?**

In college, we were encouraged to sketch and to keep drawing every day - without judging the work too much. In graduate school, we were told to research, plan, relax (and have a glass of wine), and then draw. My synthesized version of those concepts has become: Just make something. Keep working. Plan and sketch, and then see what happens. Don't be afraid of making something that doesn't work. If it doesn't work, you learned what not to do next time.

**Who is your favorite artist, and what draws you to them?**

The answer to this question changes constantly. At present I am really enjoying ceramic work with a lot of graphical impact. Kathy King works in dramatic black and white sgraffito. I love her use of strong contrast, but also the humor that is often in her work. Chandra DeBuse's work is very illustration-based, but she also plays around with her forms. Unexpected details and a very painterly approach to glazing are keystones of her pieces. I've also been looking a lot at Chris Campbell's work with colored porcelain because I've been taking her video-based class. I wanted to add colored stoneware clay into my jewelry and functional pieces, and she is one of the experts in the field.



# FIRED WORKS EVENT SCHEDULE

*Shop online at [maconarts.org/shop](https://maconarts.org/shop)*

Round Building at Carolyn Crayton Park  
115 Willie Smokey Glover Dr., Macon, GA  
Free Admission. \$5 donation is suggested

**Fired Works Hours:**  
*April 14 - 22, 2023*  
*10 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

## Saturday, April 15

ARTST TALK WITH  
ALICIA DAVID

Time : 11 a.m.

Our featured artist, Alicia David, will be at the Round Building talking about his work. The artist talk will also be live-streamed via Facebook Live.

## Saturday, April 15

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

Time : 1 p.m.

Potter Meg Campbell will be instructing a free Children's Clay Workshop in the Round Building. First come, first served. Space is limited.

## Thursday, April 20

HAPPY HOUR

Time : 4 - 6 p.m.

Enjoy a glass of wine while you shop.



L-R: Mariella Owens, Keaton Wynn, Kyle Osvog

## ABOUT MACON ARTS ALLIANCE

Macon Arts Alliance fosters support for the advancement of arts and culture in Central Georgia. We strive to be an innovative leader of a thriving regional arts community. We value strategic partnerships that strengthen the diversity and vibrancy of arts and culture for tourists, residents, artists, businesses and civic organizations. Macon Arts Alliance is the designated Arts Agency for Macon-Bibb County and charged with implementing the 2020 Cultural Plan for Macon. Macon Arts Alliance is funded in part by the Macon-Bibb County Hotel/Motel tax and through generous private support from foundations, corporations, and individual contributions.

## JOIN MACON ARTS ALLIANCE TODAY





Left: Vase by Noah Miller



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# FIRE & ICE

ceramic and glass exhibition and sale

The fifth annual Fire and Ice exhibition and sale will be held November 10 - 18, 2023, at the Round Building in Carolyn Crayton Park. This show features special seasonal ceramic and glass pieces, perfect for the holidays.

