

Anastasia Hood

As a ceramicist, my work demands for a tactile connection with natural elements, textures, and patterns, all of which ground us in the natural world. When a tree is chopped, we can see its rings which show years of trauma and growth, summers and winters, the good and the bad. If given time and proper conditions, a tree stump can still start new growths. The tree imagery in my work shows the natural cycle of suffering and growth in life. Despite our differences, we all experience loss in some way and the pains of learning while living in a troubled world, but new growth does return. Like the lily of the valley, one of the first flowers to bloom after winter, my pieces declare a return to happiness, but also maintain a stature of graceful humility and continual growth. Life brings me anxiety and heartbreaks, but ceramics keeps me feeling grounded and teaches me the time and patience it takes to truly grow in the face of chaos.