

MARY PHILPOTT

ARTIST STATEMENT / BIO

"The work that I make is a reflection of my interest in the lives and natural beauty of animals, both Domesticated and Wild. Living in the countryside, amongst both farm and woodland, the lives and stories of the animals and birds are always on the edge of ones' seeing.

The raven croaking, building their nests the deer on the edge of the forest and snowshoe hares hiding in the hedgerows. Living closer to us are our domesticated and familiar friends, the donkey and goats, the fox and the hounds.

The relationships we build with other animals become part of our own Narratives in folktales, fairy tales and mythologies of times past, and our own present.

My rendering of these reflects a historical reference to nineteenth-century children's book illustrations, as well as medieval manuscript illuminations, through the body and rendering of fur, hair and feathered surfaces of the Beings. Each one is in a static pose, like in the medieval book of hours paintings, suggesting that each being be considered, or remembered, as a representation of an animal in a folktale for the viewer to recall a narrative and enactment of a loved story, or as part of an allegory. Ultimately, I would like the viewer to be remembered of a story that they recall with fondness, happiness and a love of the narrative that the animal represents for them."

Mary Philpott is a graduate of the School of Crafts and Design, Sheridan College (Ceramics), University of Guelph (Art History and Archeology), and MacMaster University (Anthropology/Archeology). Mary also teaches and is a member of the Roycroft Renaissance Artisans, Tile Heritage Organization, Hamilton Potters Guild, Hand Made Tile Association, The William Morris Society, Tile & Architectural Ceramics Society of Britain and AIR Vallauris, France.

Mary's sculpture, pottery and tile work has been exhibited, collected and published internationally. She lives and works in Greenbank, Ontario.