

# MADISON ALVES

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## Hello!

My name is Madison and I am a graduate of Colby-Sawyer College in New London, NH with my Bachelor's in Arts: Studio Arts degree with a minor in Psychology; far from where I thought I would be at this time in my life, but in the best way possible. I started college as a psychology major and took ceramic and art courses on the side, I quickly realized that although what I was learning as a psychology major was fascinating; I was also becoming more preoccupied with my art as a mental outlet. I decided to just go for it- pursue my creative passion because at the end of the day I know that being creative every day is what will make my future self happy and fulfilled in life. Life is too short, random, and sometimes painful to waste time not pursuing one's passion. After all the trials and tribulations, I have managed to turn things around and am ready to pursue my passion and learn more about myself and my personal artistic process to define myself in an artistically professional way.

The medium I predominately work in is ceramics, but I also do some paintings and drawings. What I enjoy most about clay is my medium of choice because of all the little complexities of working with it. Something I find intriguing about pottery is that there are so many different techniques for working with the clay, firing the clay, and even glazing it. I also find pottery fascinating in a historical context because way before the modern technology of today ancient societies were creating magnificent ceramic works. I have been making pottery for about five years now, so it is easy to see my growth over the years. Something that I would really enjoy doing would be to go back and pick out a few pieces that I made when I first started ceramics and redo them to be able to compare how much I have grown and learned so far. I would describe the work I do and aspire to continue doing as sculpturally functional. I picked this term because I enjoy making work that is functional in use, yet has elements of design or sculpture to them. If my work had a category it belonged to I would say surrealism because it's familiar and therefore welcoming but catches the eye with a twist. In this way, my work aims to be dynamic with a combination of simplicity and uniqueness. I would like to explore more with the sculptural side of ceramics because I like the buildability and the challenges of more intensive work. I enjoy making adventurous pieces. When I am working on a piece I enjoy listening to music; specifically pop and rap songs from the early '90s. This is the music I grew up listening to and have not grown out of because not only do I just like the songs for what they are, I also like the memories of similar times that I associate with them.

The themes that show up in my work are quirky, organic, whimsy, and color. I suspect that the reason these themes show up in my work is that growing up I was one of those little girls that would play all day in the woods pretending to be some fantasy character or another, making forts and collecting plants and flowers for 'potions'. In this way, I would say that my work is representative of my childhood

and life, while my process is very reminiscent of it. My work interacts with the world by reflecting themes of nature, the environment around me, and the emotions within me. I get my inspiration from not only other ceramic artists or work that I come across, but my goal is to reimagine not replicate. I also get inspiration from things that I would use personally or as an idea that I have imagined would make a good present for someone. For me, being creative and just the making process is very therapeutic. Working on a piece is like my own personal therapy appointment. I use my time while I create thinking or relaxing, but most often as an outlet to zone into and forget about everything else around me. This therapeutic aspect only increases my passion for my work because it allows each work to be personal in its own way. It also allows me to make connections and reflect on my psychology knowledge. I also hope to inspire others to use art to help their mental health journey.

I seek to make connections through my work by creating something with visual intrigue that passes my joy in making it to whoever comes across it. The message I am trying to convey through my art is to find your joy in life and take the time to see the intricacies around you. The reason I make the work I do is pure because I enjoy it; I so easily get lost in making a piece because I love every second of it. I use my making process as a tool to triumph over my mental health struggle, and to enlighten my audience to the healing aspect of creating. What my work says about me as an artist is that I make my work with care, attention to detail, and the simple joy of creating. I would describe my process for making work as trial and error; I like to spend time messing around with the clay to see what happens and if that inspires me in some way. I also like to use moments of trial and error when I am working on a piece; I may have an idea of what I want in my head but I am always willing to see where the clay takes me. In this way, I hope that my work is honest. I want someone viewing my work to see my honest intent to celebrate the art of making through the work that I have crafted with my hands

I desire for my work to be that piece on a side table or bookshelf that stands out as unique and carefully crafted. I want my work to make someone as happy as I was making it. I don't know if my career as a ceramicist will pay off, but if I can continue doing what I love doing then it's all worth it. I know that I have a passion for ceramics because new ideas are always floating around my head. For me, the sign that you have found your passion is when it's all you think about, it's all you want to do and you know if you could continue doing it your whole life you would be happy. Moving forward I am excited to figure out my setup to be able to produce work effectively and efficiently enough to be able to create a career. I aspire to deepen my knowledge of ceramics to perfect my routine for getting work done; in order to build up a sustainable practice.

*Madison Alves*