

# FIRED WORKS

ceramic exhibition and sale



April 9th - 17th, 2021  
Macon, GA

*A publication of Macon Magazine  
Image: Ginger Birdsey*

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# GET FIRED UP FOR GEORGIA'S LARGEST POTTERY SHOW

April 9th - 17th, 2021

Amid the global pandemic, Macon Arts Alliance has figured out how to have a safe and successful event. The Round Building in Carolyn Crayton Park boasts natural ventilation, high and spacious ceilings, and bountiful light that seems to bring the pottery to life. It is the perfect location for this yearly event.

"This is our third COVID ceramics event," said Julie Wilkerson, Executive Director of Macon Arts Alliance. "We are once again doing everything possible to keep those who come safe while at the same time providing an online shopping alternative for those not comfortable coming in person." This year's featured artist is Ginger Birdsey, a Macon native who currently lives in Atlanta. Along with Birdsey, fifty 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).

"Our most recent two events, the 2020 Fired Works in June and Fire & Ice in November allowed us to pay over \$40,000 in commissions

to our artists", said Wilkerson. "Many of them have not had another show since 2019, so this event is especially important for them."

The event will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a virtual preview held via Facebook live on Thursday, April 8th at 4 p.m. Online sales open on Friday, April 9th at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 13th at 11 a.m., Mary Pinson ([marypinson.com](http://marypinson.com)) will demonstrate how to use diverse pieces from the show to create beautiful floral design arrangements. The event is free and open to the public and will also be a Facebook live event. Finished works will be available for purchase.

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.

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.



2 Above: Shoppers at Fired Works view work by master potter Alicia David

Image: Meg Campbell



## FIRED WORKS PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Lauren Bausch  
Derek Belflower  
Ginger Birdsey  
Andrea Boswell  
Lori Buff  
Meg Campbell  
Yen-Ting Chiu  
Sheila Chrzan  
Glen Dair  
Alicia David  
Sara Farmer  
Brian Fort  
Wade Franklin  
Marise Fransolino  
Camren Gober  
Kathryne Gould

Kirby Gregory  
Nancy Hostetter  
Roger Jamison  
Tammy Josephson  
Kathy King  
Suzanne Kleese-Stamps  
Emily Knapp  
John Lowes  
Anna Marino  
Ester Mech  
Nancy Mehrpad  
Noah Miller  
Sandra Morato  
Sheridan Nadeau  
Kyle Osvog  
Mariella Owens

Ronan Kyle Peterson  
Lynnette Phillips  
Adrina Richard  
George Kris Robson  
Helen Rogers  
Lora Rust  
Elizabeth Sabatino  
Jim Sandefur  
Pamela Summers  
Dorothy Taylor  
Bo Thompson  
Doug Tobin  
Keaton Wynn  
Tripti Yoganathan





## Ginger Birdsey

2021 Fired Works Featured Artist

### Would you like to introduce yourself?

I grew up in Macon, GA and come from a family of storytellers. My neighborhood consisted of my relatives; next door lived my grandmother and granddaddy and around the corners were aunts, uncles, and many cousins. We lived in a safe protected place, played outside every summer night and caught a good number of lightning bugs. I walked to school (Clisby) went to then Miller High School, and ended up graduating from Mercer University. I traveled in later years but wound up living 80 miles from Macon, in Atlanta. It would seem I haven't gone too far, but the world and its universal sensibilities were in this small concentric circle.

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

I taught art to kids of all ages. Starting at 8:30 am with 6 year olds and ending the day with Advanced Art students. We all start out "being creative" and somehow it can become buried along the way if it is not encouraged and nourished. Every kid I ever taught was creative and it took many forms as they grew up. We associate being creative with the visual or performing arts but there are so many ways to be creative, that is, being present in this world, alive to all around us, curious and always asking "what if".

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

One of my earliest memories was sitting on the floor in my daddy's studio (he was a painter, maker, and fixer of all things). All around me were different shapes of colored paper, glue, paint, pens, and pencils. I was like a kid in a candy shop with permission to play and do and make all I wanted. I was so happy and free. Holding on to that feeling is what keeps me at the table, in the chair, head down and happily focused.

### What inspires you?

I am moved by nature in all forms, walking on the beach looking at how the sand forms, the colors and textures of the driftwood, walking in a field of waving grasses, seeing how the trees move and grow. I have a friend who knows every name (Latin, too) of plants and trees in the woods or at the coast. She is an inspiration. When I was little, I spent summer days looking intently how the roots and vines dip in and out of the water, imagining creatures and small people living there. In my garden, deep looking into flowers the tangled vines and wormy dirt, create a visceral response. Reading a poem by Mary Oliver or Stanley Kunitz, especially, can be a stimulating moment to my thinking about our relationship to our outer and inner canvases. Clay is a natural material found in the earth. It is as if I am one with nature's soul having a conversation about real and imaginary landscapes we live in.

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

Walking every day with my dog Rosie gives me the opportunity to explore the details of the urban

world. I listen to the sounds of the bird's songs, the traffic, see what house is being renovated, look at new plantings or connect to a neighbor's hello. I have several bird feeders feeding them in my backyard garden and getting them to know me, digging in my garden, planting shrubs and flowers, and watching the growth, witnessing the ever changing of seasons, accepting the dying and anticipating new life.

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

I could say my children, both of whom have happy lives. I could say my garden for it has given me great pleasure for many years. I could say some great dinner cooked and enjoyed. I could say my home, surrounded by the things I love and the family memories in it. I could say the paintings and ceramics I have made. So perhaps, I will say my good dreams and memories which have nourished me and given me a wealth of knowledge to prime the pump of creativity is a thing I cherish.

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

I invite you to hear the cardinal sing, smell the roses, imagine bubbles full of stardust in your hair as you engage with my art and me. My work evokes memories of universal feelings of loss of innocence, aging and regeneration. I use images of nature and animals and humans fusing them to witness our changing lives. Engage with my art and I hope you find a moment of sadness, a smile or a good laugh or remember one of your dreams or memories. I hope you ask questions, become curious about fantasy and reality and how the two can connect you to who you are.

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

I would like to learn how to weld

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

I had a teacher who instead of telling me what to do, told me in a voice of childlike wonder of the circuses she went to in France, the girl on the horse, the faces of the clowns, the magic in the air. Listen to your six-year-old self. She will tell the truth and teach you how to play.

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

Frida Kahlo, because she used her entire emotional self in her art. The Surrealists because they fused the imaginary with real life. Picasso because he broke rules and took risks. Klee because he never let his child leave his side.

### What is your dream project?

To live a good life, and to keep playing and asking questions.



Above: Ginger Birdsey



# FIREWORKS EVENT SCHEDULE

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

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

**Fired Works Hours:**  
April 9th - 17th  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thursday, April 8th  
VIRTUAL PREVIEW  
Time: Facebook Live at 4 p.m.

Friday, April 9th  
ONLINE & IN-PERSON SALES OPEN  
Time: 10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 13th  
FLORAL DEMO WITH MARY PINSON  
Time: 11 a.m.

Thursday, April 15th  
HAPPY HOUR  
Time: 4 - 6 p.m.  
Sip wine while you shop!



### Safety Precautions at Fired Works:

Macon Arts Alliance cares about the health and safety of our employees, artists and patrons. We will be following CDC and government guidelines regarding cleaning and physical distancing at Fired Works. Gloves and hand sanitizer will be available on-site, as well as a hand-washing station. We offer contactless payment through PayPal and Venmo, and otherwise encourage payment by credit card. Admission fee of \$5 has been eliminated to reduce contact; a suggested donation of \$5 at check out is appreciated. We respectfully ask that patrons who have fever, cough or are not feeling well take advantage of our online Fired Works store. The online store offers curbside pick up at the Round Building during Fired Works hours or after the event at The Gallery at 486 First Street Tuesday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Shipping and delivery options are available for an additional fee.

Top: Elizabeth Sabatino; Bottom: Derek Belflower



THANK YOU TO OUR FIREWORKS SPONSORS

Image: Roger Jamison



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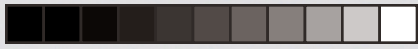
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# FIRE & ICE

The third annual Fire and Ice exhibition and sale will be held at the Round Building in Carolyn Crayton Park from November 12th - 20th. This show features special seasonal ceramic and glass pieces, perfect for the holidays.

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