

## Karen French: Artist Statement

### The Grey Clay

I have found the ceramic firing of *anagama*. Some of these pieces are finished in this 4-day wood firing, some in a gas kiln. The fire blushes and burns the work. The wood ash circulating in the atmosphere by the heat settles on the sculpture's shoulders and melts like a glaze or tarnishes with fire. The centered and modeled clay, the fire, the natural elements, and the community are an enticing alchemical confluence.

Human's are born to search. I woke up at 17 and realized, there is more to living than we see. Now at the other end of life I call it *asking the beautiful questions*. Absorbing ideas from everything. In the mysterious soft space of silence and noticing, are my teachers. Michelangelo and Mother Nature too.