

Artist Statement  
Donna Namnoum

Over the many years that I've been making wheel thrown sculptural forms, my work has evolved, one series leading to the next. Never really interested in making functional pottery, from the beginning I used the potter's wheel to make sculptural forms. I have cycled back to forms inspired by plants more often than not and over the past few years have been making covered jars whose lids are covered with various forms. These forms are often inspired by desert and under-the-sea plants as well as vegetation reminiscent of growths one might encounter in a backyard garden or in the forest.

Each of the parts of my sculptures are made on the potter's wheel, allowing me to create forms that look alive, as if they are growing, twisting, and even wilting. The wheel-thrown parts are altered and then assembled. In the current jar series, the main vessel becomes the host and the lids of these vessels grow sprouts from the surface or are meant to appear as though they live inside.

My interest in historical ceramics and world pottery has informed my work: the subjects of my early forms were classic pottery vessels and then evolved to being about and reflecting various natural forms - plants, bugs, human beings and even cellular-like forms. Meanwhile, they have evolved from representational to varying degrees of abstraction.

Surface and color is also integral to the finished forms. My experimentation in making glazes allows me to add texture, interesting layers and colorful surfaces that can bring the forms to life. I am always aware of the uncertainty of how a piece may turn out, making the whole process of creating, from creating the form to finishing the surface, an exciting adventure. My goal is for that uncertainty and experimentation to be visible in the final work.