

Beth Shook
Artist Statement

There is always a story to tell. One might reason that there are at least two stories; considering the complementary sides to each tale. Indeed, one discovers those storied halves illuminate parallel narratives, alluding to ever more complex accounts that, in the end, draw on the recalled experiences of man. In my tale, inspiration comes from my relationships with people through faith – autobiographic, adopted into my life; my narrative.

Each encounter elicits a reaction to communicate to others. Because I am assured that my world view is not singular, my narrative becomes allegory. I invite others to join my story, fully aware of potential conflict and distance as well as comfort and familiarity.

Clay provides the most immediate way to tell my story visually as it responds to manipulation. As the narrative continues, and the images develop, the surface becomes my focus. Most often in layers of slips and glaze, pushed and pulled onto the drawn, stamped or textured clay. The story begins to take shape, the drawing more a part of the clay surface, the clay more a part of the narrative. I include found objects and various other mediums to aid in the story telling process, furthering the overlap of color, texture and image.