**Bonnie Brooking**

My interest6 in ceramics was sparked when I took a summer pottery class with our teenage daughter. I continued studying with local potters and eventually enrolled in Hand built and Wheel Thrown ceramics classes at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

I am influenced by the colors and textures of the Black Hills landscape. I use a dark brown stoneware clay. The high fire glaze “breaks” over sharp edges and reveals intricate patterns and details. I use found objects to add decoration: the large platter was impressed with pine boughs from my yard and an old bolt found on the Mickelson Trail.

This functional pottery is meant to be used. My glazes are lead free and food safe. The high fire stoneware is surprisingly durable and can be used in the microwave oven or electric oven.

My husband and I live south of Lead surrounded by the Black Hills National Forest. We enjoy snowshoeing and hiking with our shelter dog “The Dude”. Inspiration is always just outside our front door.