Makers in Motion: Featuring Katrina Burks

Contributed by Grace Tomczak

MakerSphere is thrilled to launch our new Makers in Motion series, spotlighting the makers and members who bring our community to life. For our inaugural entry, we're proud to introduce Katrina Burks — board member, potter, and nurse practitioner by day.

Katrina began her pottery journey at MakerSphere in 2013. After a pause, she returned with renewed passion in 2021 and joined the board in 2022. Known for experimenting with sgraffito and glaze combinations, she creates striking surface designs that beautifully complement her well-crafted forms.

When did you start your creative arts journey?

"I have always loved doing art projects. I minored in Art History in college and gained a much deeper appreciation for all that goes into creating various forms of artwork. Getting into pottery after loving functional and beautiful pieces forever has been my dream come true!"

After experiencing a profound personal loss, Katrina found solace in the meditative, therapeutic nature of clay. Pottery became a way to honor loved ones while also nurturing her own healing. The support and camaraderie of the MakerSphere studio have been central to her creative and personal journey.

Mug and chip & dip dish by Katrina Burks

How would you describe MakerSphere's impact on your creative work?

"Weekly classes with the same group of potters have created a strong support system. We feed off each other's ideas, help problem-solve, and celebrate successes. When I'm in the studio outside of class, I never know who I'll be working alongside — and that's part of the joy. I get to experience their creativity, share solutions, and cheer them on."

Has MakerSphere impacted your life outside of your creative work?

"The connections and conversations in the studio range from silly memes to serious personal, political, and community issues. I call the MakerSphere community my Pottery Family. I don't have to plan social engagements because I know that just being at the studio means spending time with people I truly enjoy."

A dedicated supporter of MakerSphere, Katrina believes deeply in the power of art to strengthen communities and foster meaningful connections.

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Do you think MakerSphere is important to the community?

“MakerSphere provides so many essential elements to the community — for all ages and interests. There are creative spaces for wood, fiber arts, pottery, stained glass, and countless other workshops and events. If we’re not connecting with art, we’re missing out on such self-affirming and expressive parts of ourselves and our community.”

Bowls, mug and garlic keeper by Katrina Burks

Today, you can find Katrina at the Seminary Pottery Studio, continuing her exploration of functional and beautiful pieces. One day, she hopes to add glassblowing to her artistic repertoire. The future is full of possibilities!

If you or someone you know would like to be featured in the Makers in Motion series, please complete the form linked below.

Makers in Motion

Stained-Glass & Pottery Studio
201 Hollow Road
Waterbury Center, VT

Wood Shop & Maker Space
1727 Guptil Road
Waterbury Center, VT

Sewing & Fiber Arts
30 Foundry Street
Waterbury, VT

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