

NORLEEN NOSRI**Bio**

Norleen Nosri was born and raised in Malaysia. She earned a BFA (2010) and MFA (2013) in Ceramics at the University of Missouri-Columbia under the tutelage of Bede Clarke. During her undergraduate years, she took a job as a pottery instructor to children and advanced to teaching adult classes. Later, she began leading demonstrations and workshop for local elementary and high schools as well as programs for special needs children and adults. She transitioned to teach college level classes during and after her graduate program. Her work has been featured in exhibitions in galleries and museums in Pennsylvania, Washington, Texas, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri. Her interest in the material and people has pushed her work into public art. She was awarded public art commissions by the City of Columbia, Missouri in 2013 and Emerson (For the Florissant/Ferguson School District, Missouri) in 2015. Her public artwork titled CommuniTea involves the public to participate in tea ceremonies with the artwork. She was the artist-in-residence at the Missouri State Fair Fine Arts (2014), Ferguson/Florissant, MO School District (2015) and Craft Alliance Center of Art & Design, St. Louis (2014-15). Nosri continues to teach, create artwork for private and public spaces. She is actively involved in the local St. Louis arts community and is married with one child.

Statement

The acts of serving and accepting reflect a shared exchange of human contact. The iconic phrase 'tea time', whether in the family setting or that of the larger community allows for a certain leveling of the social hierarchy and thus, for fellowship. The shared moment becomes elevated and mundane becomes ceremonial. The function and metaphor for teapots has become my arena to explore and interpret self, family, surroundings and the people within the family of the surroundings.