



# Art Gallery

Main: 338 Main Street • Huntington, NY 11743 • 631/427-5165

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# RHONDA CUNHA

## CERAMIC-MOSAIC WORKS

**DECEMBER 3 – JANUARY 15, 2006**

Reception: Sunday December 11, 2:00-4:00 PM

*From the Artist:*

My work is influenced by my diverse training in several areas of art and by the places I have lived and traveled all over the world. I started working in clay in high school and moved on to explore other media, graphics, mixed-media sculpture - focusing mainly on surface design and textiles. I was trained at the Rhode Island School of Design, University of Massachusetts/Amherst (BFA Sculpture) and the Cranbrook Academy of Art (MFA Fibers), and have taught both Textile design and ceramics in many educational settings throughout the years.

My current work in mosaics combines my background in textiles and a long history with clay. I am interested in Surface design for its potential to use pattern as a kind of visual language. Clay allows me to incorporate texture and three-dimensional aspects into the compositions.

It was during a trip to visit the Moravian Tileworks in Pennsylvania - where I saw a piece of fabric rendered in clay and embedded in cement, wallpaper-style - that my two strongest interests were married. I came home from that trip and began making mosaics and tiles that mostly incorporate elements of textiles and related patterning. When I am designing new work, I look at quilts, weaving, tapestry, wallpaper, lace and fabric design.

I believe the objects we choose to surround ourselves with define or describe our characters. My home is filled with vibrant color, pattern, and texture. I collect ceramic plates from Portugal, Voodoo art from Haiti and Brazil, quilts, tiles, toys. I am drawn to folk art because it is spirited, joyful, direct and often gives a personal glimpse into the life of the maker. Symbol and narrative come together in simple, yet often provocative ways.