

**KAREN PIERCE
ARTIST STATEMENT**

I have been exposed to building construction, architecture, and interior design for most of my life and undoubtedly this has influenced my aesthetics. Before becoming a metalsmith I worked as an interior architect and even then I was intrigued with the vessel form because it defines space and has the possibility of containing something special, much as an architectural space would.

My early metalwork and *Offering Series* focused on vessels and was strongly influenced by my appreciation of our natural environment in combination with my interest in the custom of ritual offerings and ancient/historical offering vessels. These vessels were sculptural in nature, with no concern for functionality.

This work then evolved to semi-functional decorative vessels that reflected some of the attitudes of the Arts and Crafts Movement in combination with my architecturally influenced appreciation for clean lines and spare design.

My *Lamanai Series* vessels are a reflection of my involvement at the Maya site of Lamanai, Belize, in Central America, and the archaeological excavations and architectural mapping I worked on there. While I feel these vessels are still decorative in nature, they incorporate actual fragments of the architectural drawings I did, and also reference patterns and symbols found in Maya art and culture along with my personal interpretation of these.