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## CRAFTS ASSOCIATION of BRITISH COLUMBIA

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### **Nancy Walker**

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c/o CABC

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Work can be viewed at the following venues:

- Craft House Gallery, 1386 Cartwright Street, Granville Island, Vancouver, BC  
phone: (604) 687-7270.
- Canadian Craft & Design Museum, 639 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC phone: (604) 687-8266
- [www.artistsinourmidst.com](http://www.artistsinourmidst.com) – click on Point Grey

### **Artist's Statement**

"Nancy Walker is an inventor, a person who experiments and accepts lessons from her materials. She is a creator of mythologies and surprising visual possibilities. Mainly, she works in ceramics but also features fiber, beading and sequins. She holds a BA from Simon Fraser University (1989), and is a graduate of Emily Carr College of Art and Design (1986). She also studied at the Universities of New Mexico and Oregon, and the New England School of Art in Massachusetts.

"Walker's ceramic work is a fascinating and joyous evolution. Her hand-built pots feature edges of cut-out, painted houses, their roofs making a jagged, circular skyline. Their colours - ruddy browns, dusty blues, pudding yellows - make them seem like row houses in European fables. Beneath them, in the body of the pot, are floating figures of people and animals. She is never quite sure how they will look, deliberately courting spontaneity. She evokes the conscious and the subconscious, the present and the buried past, the mundane and the mythological.

"Other clay works include tall towers with removable roofs that have secret compartments inside. Another series of towers is made of cubes that turn independently. The figures painted on them can be reconfigured. One group of figures called "4D Feelings" represent desire, delight, daring and determination. Aligning, for example, Desire's head, with Daring's body, and Delightful's legs gives a range of conceptual associations and the potential to imagine ourselves as a many-sided "emotional weather vane".

- by Bettina Matzkuhn (excerpts from CABC member profile, *Craft Contacts*, February/March/April 2002)

### **Image List**

1. "City Pot", hand built clay pot, clay collage and painted with pigmented terra sigillata slip and polished, 16" X 7", 2002

2. "4D Feelings: Delight, Daring, Desire, and Determination"  
("Daring/Desire/Delight" is viewed)  
Rotating cubes (Elegant Corpse) illustrate 4 Feelings that begin with the letter 'D'. Hand built with red clay painted with pigmented terra sigillata slip and polished. Supported with brass tube.  
26" X 6" x 6", 2001
3. "Spotted Owl", Antique Carpenter's hand saw, glass seed beads, Mahogany hinged case.  
#13 in endangered Song Bird series, 28" X 6" X 3", 2001

## **Process**

A delicious chocolate-red clay is where it begins. Everything rests upon this colour.

Images of figures and animals are pressed onto the inside of bisque ware, then coils of clay are pushed over the entire interior, covering and distorting the underlying images.

When the clay hardens a bit, I remove it from that pot and begin the process of adding layers of textures, imprints, more figures and animals, fish swimming through to the other side, and windows looking inside then out. The rim is crowned with a highly detailed old-world cityscape.

When the piece is leather hard I paint it with terra sigillata pigmented clay slips allowing that chocolate-red clay colour to reappear. It is then fired to about 1875° F. While still warm from the firing I saturate it with melted beeswax.