

Sharon Norwood

Artists working today can look back through art history, such as ceramic traditions and innovations, to inform their work. From techniques and materials passed down through generations to starting conversations about how art reflects culture, artists can reinterpret the history of ceramics in personal and unique ways.

Interdisciplinary artist Sharon Norwood explores line in a variety of art forms and media, including ceramics, fiber art, and media arts. She often incorporates vintage and antique objects in her art, giving new meaning to items that were valued in the past.

Lines in Norwood's artworks invite the viewer to reflect on identity, history, and contemporary society.



Photo by Chis Edwards.
Courtesy of McColl
Center.

She *layers* meaning from different periods through found objects combined with gestural lines that recall Black hair experiences.

In her *Hair Matters* series, Norwood repurposes antique tea sets, applying lines with overglaze and firing the ceramics to permanently adhere the drawing to the surface. She *recontextualizes* the objects with expressive lines to explore historic and contemporary associations with luxury goods such as elegant serving sets.

For Your Sketchbook

Locate ceramic artworks in this text or online that you could incorporate into an original work of art. How might you use historic ceramics to create new meanings? Use your sketchbook to explore these ideas.



Fig. 1–36. **What ideas do you associate with tea sets such as the one in this artwork? How does the artist's use of line add new meaning?**

Sharon Norwood, *Tea for One*, from the *Hair Matters* series, 2018. Overglaze drawing on vintage china. Courtesy of Sharon Norwood.