

# Brooke Lanier

## Artist's Statement:

These tactile ceramic sculptures are companion pieces for my paintings, providing context and a different way of understanding space. I've had vision problems my whole life, but when I developed obstructive floaters and increased light sensitivity in my good eye in 2023, I decided it was time to learn ceramics. These ceramics make my art accessible for people with vision loss, which is important to me because I think that art should be for everyone.

At my core, I am an artist, and in the worst-case scenario I have an accident and go completely blind, I will still be able to make things with my hands. Fortunately, though I am blind in my right eye, my vision in my good eye is stable. Even though it gives me grief, I have learned a new skill set and made friends in the blind and low-vision community, as well as The Clay Studio. Plus, when my eyes are bothering me, it is easier to look at brown clay than the unforgiving white of a fresh

surface or the tiny intricate patterns in my paintings.

Everyone not-so-secretly wants to touch the impasto surfaces of my oil paintings, and these sculptures are specifically intended to be touched. Constructing them helped me understand the subject matter of my paintings as well, since I realized how much I focused on little details but lacked an understanding of how the parts make a whole. You never think so much about how something is constructed until you try to build it yourself.