

Raku



Agnes Olive, a ceramist of increasing reputation, lives appropriately in the town of Terra Cotta, in the Caledon Hills outside Toronto.

She makes pots, baskets and bowls in raku, a Japanese word which means happiness and an art form that, among other things, reflects nature in its asymmetry and roughness.

Ms. Olive finds inspiration during long walks through woods, along railroad tracks, across bridges and through abandoned farms. She also finds material along the way. One day she found the sun-bleached bones of a deer and carried them

home. They could not stand up to firing so she smoked them to a darkness that harmonized with the black raku. "Basket" (1980) (above) has a deer bone handle, a glazed interior and a rough, unglazed outer surface.

No two of her pieces are alike. She experiments in reduction times and materials, using, among others, sawdust, pine needles and cow dung.

For more information about Agnes Olive's work, write or call her at her gallery: Forge Studio, Terra Cotta, Ontario L0P 1N0, (416) 877-5872.