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When you think of art, what comes to mind — paintings or sculpture perhaps? What about stained-glass windows, a hand-blown glass vase, an animal carved in wood, a hand-woven basket, or a bowl wheel-thrown from clay?

art: The products of human creativity



Regardless what a person may think about art, most people enjoy that which is handmade. And if someone we know created the item, it will have special meaning. This can be true with a quilt sewn by your grandmother, a table built by your father, or a mug crafted of clay by a friend.

handmade: Made by hand or a hand process



Whether a person creates objects for a living or just as a hobby, they do so because they love the process of creating. Nancy E. Green has described this process of craftsmanship as, "with an eye to both beauty and utility, not just art for art's sake, but art for the soul's sake." So whether it is an oil painting or a handmade coffee mug, it is the fact that it was created with "heart and hand" that makes it special.

artist: A person whose creative work has sensitivity and imagination



People collect these works for the enjoyment of being surrounded by things that are not only beautiful, but are also handmade. As clay artist Dina Wilde-Ramsing has said, "There is a very intimate relationhip between the maker and user. God bless the people who appreciate that."

love: Have a great affection or liking for





Words by Dan Hardison - Clay art by Dina Wilde-Ramsing