SHE WHO ABIDES IN THE NIGHT

erin mcguiness

Erin McGuiness body of work, She Who Abides in the Night, captures something the artist felt in the high desert of New Mexico. Dark moons and stars close enough to touch. Mountains standing in shadow. A sky wide enough to hold everything. Ground beneath her feet carrying time she could not measure. Something unseen, something larger than herself, met the artist there, and a lonesomeness rose in her and was held. Witnessed by the mountains, the dark, the moon, the desert itself. Lonesomeness moved toward belonging, again and again, until it became a way of being in the world.

The ceramic forms are not pictures of the desert. They are what the desert moved in her, given shape.

The clay carries this directly. Its surface is dark, slightly rough, holding the mark of the hand that made it, with a faint iridescent sheen catching the light. Openings in the forms become crescent moons and half moons. The pieces sit close to one another, nesting the way a mountain range nests against itself, ridge after ridge. The walls curve around empty space, the way night curves around a field of stars, a kind of celestial blanket wrapped close. Small perforations, patterned as constellations, open faintly into the dark. Flat blades rise from within some forms, a rising sun caught mid ascent. A dark moon settles into others, grounded and still.

The sun does rise. After every long night, there is light. There is a wisdom in this, one McGuiness returned to again and again while making this work. When we show our shadow parts to another person, to a place, to a presence, we come to know those parts ourselves. More of us comes out of hiding. This is a kind of soul retrieval. A kind of healing. It is what she set out to hold in her hands, made visible in the rising blades, where they appear, and in the dark moons resting in the forms beside them. Two shapes, moving through the same body of work. The dark was always moving toward the light it was already holding.

She Who Abides in the Night will be shown alongside work by Swedish painter Josefin Tolstoy at Norman Dudley Fine Art on Canyon Road in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the fall of 2026, in a two person exhibition titled What Changes Without Leaving.

Moon Walker

New Moon Rises, grandfather
New Moon Rises, grandmother

Grief's Cavern

Morning Sun, brother
Morning Sun, father
Morning Sun, son

Pleiades Folds
Night Arms
Grandmother Stars
Night Folds

Mountain Song, sister high
Soul Cloth, mother
Soul Cloth, daughter
Mountain Song, sister low

Pleiades Folds

Waxing Crescent, brother
Waxing Crescent, sister

Aphrodite's Bones, ossuary

Title. Moon Walker
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 22″
Top Diameter. 6 x 2″
Base Diameter. 6.5″
Widest Diameter. 10″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 005

Title. New Moon Rises, grandfather &
New Moon Rises, grandmother
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 10.5″ I Height. 6.5″
Top Diameter. 3 x .2″ I Top Diameter. 2 x .2″
Base Diameter. 4″I Base Diameter. 3.5″
Widest Diameter. 4″ I Widest Diameter. 4.5″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 0015 I #EM - 0016

Title. Grief's Cavern
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 3.5″
Depth. 10″
Length. 18″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 0017

Title. Morning Sun, brother & Morning Sun, father &
Morning Sun, son
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 15.5″ I Height. 23.5″ I Height. 12″
Top Diameter. 6 x .2″ I Top Diameter. 5 x 2″
Top Diameter. 6 x .3″
Base Diameter. 5.5″ I Base Diameter. 6″
Base Diameter. 4″
Widest Diameter. 11.5″ I Widest Diameter. 14″
Widest Diameter. 10″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 0014 I #EM - 0012 I #EM - 0013

Title. Pleiades Folds
Title. Night Arms
Title. Grandmother Stars
Title. Night Folds
Title. Mountain Song, sister high
Title. Soul Cloth, mother
Title. Soul Cloth, daughter
Title. Mountain Song, sister low

Title. Pleiades Folds
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 15.5″
Top Diameter. 9 x 6″
Base Diameter. 5″
Widest Diameter. 9.5″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 004

Title. Night Arms
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 8″
Top Diameter. 6 x 5″
Base Diameter. 6″
Widest Diameter. 6.5″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 003

Title. Grandmother Stars
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 14″
Top Diameter. 2.5″
Base Diameter. 7 x 6″
Widest Diameter. 7″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 006

Title. Night Folds
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 18.5″
Top Diameter. 2 x 1″
Base Diameter. 8 x 7″
Widest Diameter. 9″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 007

Title. Mountain Song, sister high
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 8″
Top Diameter. 2 x 1″
Base Diameter. 5.5 x 4″
Widest Diameter. 5.5″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 0010

Title. Soul Cloth, mother
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 13.5″
Top Diameter. 4 x 1″
Base Diameter. 8 x 4″
Widest Diameter. 8″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 008

Title. Soul Cloth, daughter
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 9.5″
Top Diameter. 3.5 x 1.5″
Base Diameter. 6 x 5″
Widest Diameter. 7″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 009

Title. Mountain Song, sister low
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 6″
Top Diameter. 2 x 1″
Base Diameter. 5.5 x 4″
Widest Diameter. 5.5″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 0011

Title. Waxing Crescent, brother & Waxing Crescent, sister
Medium. Ceramic, Spanish Cedar
Height. 16.5″ I Height. 16″
Top Diameter. 6 x 5″ I Top Diameter. 6 x 5″
Base Diameter. 5.5″ I Base Diameter. 4″
Widest Diameter. 7.5″ I Widest Diameter. 6″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 001 I #EM - 002

Title. Aphrodite's Bones, ossuary
Medium. Ceramic
Height. 4.5″
Widest Diameter. Circumference 13″
Unique. Signed
#EM - 0018

ERIN MCGUINESS CV - Abridged

EDUCATION & APPRENTICESHIPS
1997-98 Huffman Studios, apprenticeship with Dale Huffman, Pittsburgh, PA
1997 BA Fine Arts: Ceramics, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana
1996 Studies in Ceramics & Renaissance Art History, Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia, Cortona, Italy
1993 Hull Studios, ceramic internship with Catherine Hull, Washington, DC

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS
2026 What Changes Without Leaving, Norman Dudley, Santa Fe, NM
2021-24 Altarpieces to Her, De Sousa Hughes, SF, CA
2022 Relics & Rebirth, Sacramento Fine Arts Center, Sacramento, CA, NCECA independent concurrent exhibition
2021 McGuiness & Yenawine, Gospel Flat Farmstand Gallery, Bolinas, CA
2018 Touching Earth: Women Creating Communities, Curated by Lucille Sturdevant, Carnegie, PA, NCECA independent concurrent exhibition
2015 Not Too Funky: New Bay Area Ceramics, Curated by Christa Assad, Diablo Valley College Art Gallery, Pleasant Hill, CA
2014 Large Vessels and Small Sculptures, Roscoe Clay Gallery, Oakland, CA
2012 A Cutting-edge Experiment in Living, BOFFA, New York, NY
2010 Gifted Hands: The Fine Art of Craft, Hearst Art Gallery, Moraga, CA
2009 Hybrid Nation, Costello - Childs Contemporary, Scottsdale, AZ, NCECA independent concurrent exhibition
2008 From A Women's Hand, Past Visions – Present Realities, Ellis School, Pittsburgh, PA, NCECA independent concurrent exhibition
2004 10 Artists, Xar Gallery, SF, CA
1999 Transformations Through Clay, Art Elements Gallery, Columbus, OH
1996 Mostra '96, Cortona, Italy

SELECTED COLLECTIONS
Jennifer Haas Collection
Jeffrey Spahn Collection
Julie Dowling & Dr. Steven Platzman Collection
Fondazzjoni Kreattivita, The Spazju Kreattiv Art Collection

SELECTED BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS
2026 Feeling, Architectural Digest
2024 Nicole Hollis, Artistry of Home, Rizzoli
2019 In the Making, 20 Years of De Sousa Hughes
2017 Erin McGuiness Celebrates Form With Her Vessels, Luxe Interiors + Design
2017 Fall Home Team, Erik Hughes Points Out Six California Artisans to Know, C Home
2012 Night at the Museum: Exhibition-ist, DC Magazine
2012 look what I made!, Interior Design Magazine/Market Tabloid
2011 Stylemaker, Luxe Magazine
2011 AD Discoveries, Architectural Digest
2010 Beauty of Handmade, 3D Magazine
2008 A Region That Gives Crafters Their Due, East Bay Express

SELECTED AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS
2026 Three Artist Three Oaks Residency, Bennett Valley, CA
2023 AIR Residency, Spazju Kreattiv, Valletta/Gozo, Malta
2018 Practice Period, Green Dragon Zen Temple, CA, USA
2017 Art & Entrepreneurship: Successfully Balancing Craft and Business, SF Design Center, SF, CA (Panelist)
2015 Artist in Residence, Skopelos Foundation for the Arts, Greece
2013 Ceramics: Legacies In Art & Design - In Conversation with Erin McGuiness and Leslie Anton, De Sousa Hughes, SF, CA (Panelist)
2009 Artist in Residence, Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts, ME, USA

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For pricing and availability visit
Norman Dudley Fine Art

normandudleyfineart.com

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