



Dwellings

Artwork by Elfa Jonsdottir

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Artist, Fibers & Ceramics

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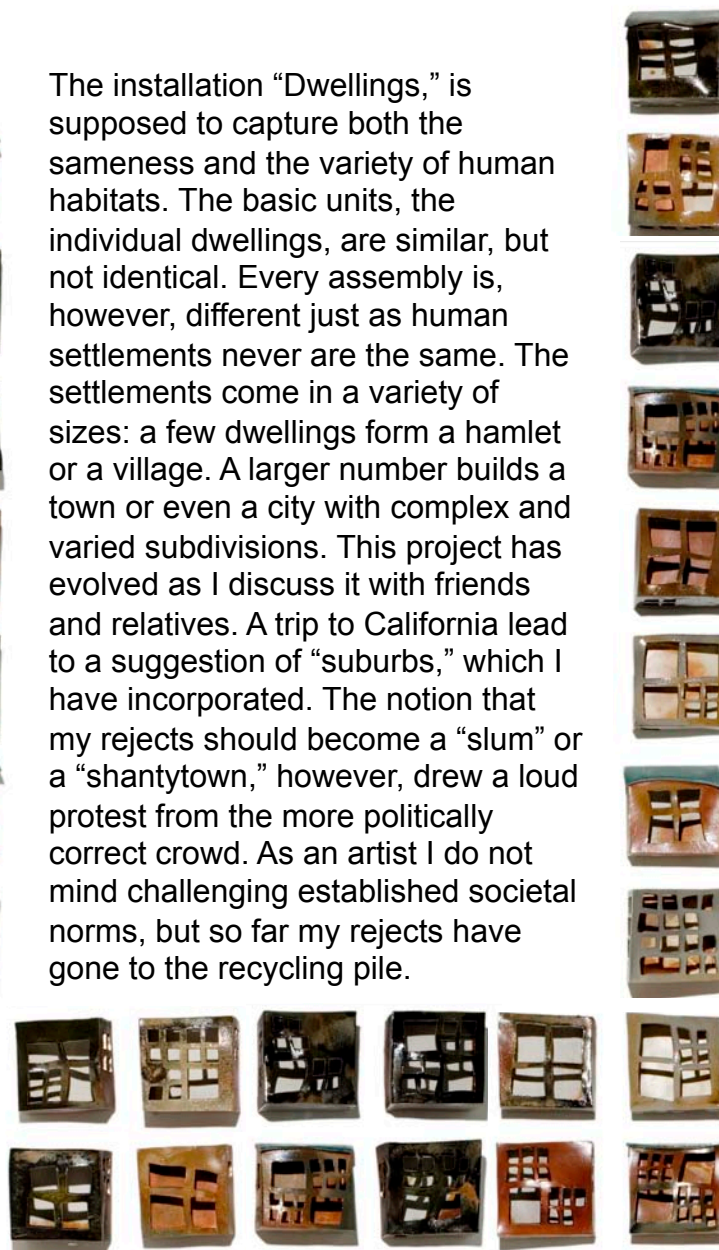
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Elfa Jonsdottir originally studied textile in Iceland and later obtained a masters degree from the Rhode Island School of Design. For several years she was a visiting artist in the Art School at the University of Michigan, working extensively in textile, both surface design and weaving. More recently she studied ceramics at the Worcester Center for Crafts. Elfa enjoys working in a variety of medium, exploring the unique applicability and surfaces to provide new ways to express her ideas. She has had solo exhibitions and taken part in group exhibitions in several galleries in the Midwest and on the East Coast.





The installation "Dwellings," is supposed to capture both the sameness and the variety of human habitats. The basic units, the individual dwellings, are similar, but not identical. Every assembly is, however, different just as human settlements never are the same. The settlements come in a variety of sizes: a few dwellings form a hamlet or a village. A larger number builds a town or even a city with complex and varied subdivisions. This project has evolved as I discuss it with friends and relatives. A trip to California led to a suggestion of "suburbs," which I have incorporated. The notion that my rejects should become a "slum" or a "shantytown," however, drew a loud protest from the more politically correct crowd. As an artist I do not mind challenging established societal norms, but so far my rejects have gone to the recycling pile.



Windows have always captured my imagination. They have been a constant theme in my artwork, both as patterns and as images. This wonderful hole in the wall gives us a peek into someone's life and opens up our lives to the outside.

Windows on buildings create wonderful repeats and reflections. Looking at window you can see the whole sky. Rain or shine, they protect and separate, bring together and open. Maybe it is just me, but I know that I need these wonders of windows.



Although I initially focused exclusively on textiles, when I moved to Worcester I was temporarily without my studio and needed something to do with my hands. Why clay? Well that is a long story but I like challenges and when the situation came up I did decide to go for it and try. And like clay it stuck!

In ceramics I have worked on several different themes, exploring one form for an extended period of time before switching to a new one. My themes range from abstract sculptures to more conventional bowls, boxes and tableware. Most recently, my focus has been on the Dwellings

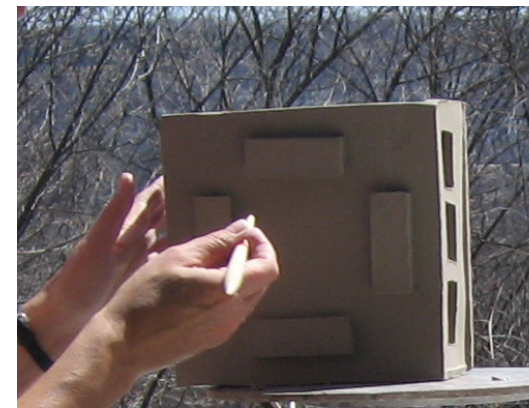




The dwellings are hand-build from white stoneware slab, the slab is cut and formed into a box like form and then little windows are cut into the form and the form is manipulated to make it irregular.



The inside is painted with tile 6 slip on green-ware. In some Dwelling drawing and stamping has been made in the bottom to draw the attention into the box. Then the Dwelling goes thru a long drying period, and then it is bisqued and fired to cone 10



Some are soda fired, some reduction fired and some are wood fired. The outside has not been glazed rather soaked in soda or salt solution with some flashing slips under. The firings have been done in different kilns for more variability on the surface. Some of the dwellings have been filled or stuffed before firing, with material that during firing will burn and leave marks on the inside, including rice leaves, cacti needle, bamboo levees, glass.



Inspiration!

A dense collage of various architectural images. It includes colorful buildings with shutters, stone structures with arched windows, modern facades with large windows, and interior spaces like a long arched hallway. The images are arranged in a grid-like fashion, overlapping and creating a rich visual tapestry of architectural styles and details.