



## Artist Bio

Scarlett Suhy-Pons was born in the United States in 1973. Her father's career as a civil engineer with the government gave her family the opportunity to live all over the world including the Philippines, Morocco, and Greece. Scarlett graduated from TASIS, The American School in England, in 1991.

Scarlett attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and pursued an education in Architecture and Urban Studies. During those years, she became involved with the ceramics program taught by Ellen Braaten. This tandem study became a well-grounded compliment to her architectural curriculum and became the foundation by which she pursued her ceramics afterwards.

Scarlett moved to New York City in 1998 and worked for architecture firms in Brooklyn and Manhattan. In New York her career was two-fold: working as a designer in an architecture firm by day, and dedicating herself in the ceramic studio in the evenings and weekends. In 2000, Scarlett and seven other ceramic artists founded a cooperative pottery studio, the Sunset Park Ceramic Co-Op. By 2004, Scarlett was taking commissions from private clients, specializing in custom made dinnerware and decorative vases. Scarlett launched her website, [www.scarlettwares.com](http://www.scarlettwares.com), in November of that year.

In July 2005, Scarlett and her husband Gabriel relocated to Fredericksburg, Virginia to live closer to her family and start one of their own. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Scarlett and Gabriel welcomed their son, Diego Suhy Pons, into their lives.

Scarlettwares' new home is located at the PONS SHOP studio in Fredericksburg. Here, Scarlett has the opportunity to create, exhibit, and teach ceramics. Scarlett's process balances an acute aesthetic with sensitivity for function and ergonomics. Her pieces are not intended to sit behind a glass case, but rather on one's dining room table or nightstand.

## Artist Statement

### **The Bowl**

The bowl is one of the most humble forms in ceramics. I would like to think that it was the very first ceramic piece ever made tens of thousands of years ago. If you study ceramic works from ancient cultures that were most likely still living in isolation from one another-whether it be the Africans, people from the Ancient Near East, the Greeks and Romans, or natives from the Americas you see an emergence of one form, a round shape sized appropriately for one meal or one cup of water. It always fascinated me that somehow it is instinctual that when a piece of clay is put into one's hands, time and time again this same beautiful form emerges.

Like many artists I first encountered my medium at a very young age but it wasn't until I was studying Architecture at Virginia Tech that I was reintroduced to ceramics. Throughout those years of study, I began to understand the importance of clay as a material and as an art form. I began working in clay using hand-building techniques such as coiling as slab building. At the same time, I studied the ceramic history of the Native Americans and Africans. All of these activities gave me a strong sense that my exploration in ceramics was connected to something timeless.

The bowl is one of the many pieces that I enjoy creating. When I design and construct a bowl I think of how this piece will be used, how it will hold your food and keep it warm, how it will fit in your hand and sit on the table and what its cross-section would look like. No matter how many bowl designs I make, this form will remain timeless not only in its formal beauty but its function as well.

## Education

1991 -1997

### **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**

- Graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Urban Studies.
- Studied hand-building (slab/coil) techniques in clay for 4 years as part of design curriculum.

## Artistic Endeavors

Present

### **PONSHOP studio at LibertyTown Arts Workshop - Fredericksburg, Virginia**

- I currently share a studio space with my husband, Gabriel Pons. We create and exhibit artwork as well as hold workshops in art, design, and ceramics. Visit [www.libertytownarts.com](http://www.libertytownarts.com) and [www.ponshopstudio.com](http://www.ponshopstudio.com)

2000 - 2005

### **Sunset Park Ceramic Co-op - Brooklyn, New York**

- One of eight founding members in cooperative ceramics studio.
- Responsibilities included operating electric kiln, fabricating glazes, and maintaining studio materials.

## Professional Experience

July 2005

– Present

### **Scarlettwares Design / PONSHOP Studio - Fredericksburg, Virginia**

Architectural Consultant

- In collaboration with my husband, Gabriel Pons, we have formed a partnership to pursue our goals of creating quality fine art in the mediums of ceramics and painting. In tandem with our artistic pursuits, we also provide architectural consultation.
- Provided construction documents for a 2,100 square foot office expansion and renovation.
- Developed construction documents for a 980 square foot addition to a single-family residence

2000 - 2005

### **Guenther 5 Architects - New York, New York**

Architect

- Maimonides Medical Center, Aron 1 Labor and Delivery, Brooklyn, NY: Renovation and expansion of the LDR including a new reception area with millwork desk and wall component, two new LDR and Exam rooms and Staff Area.
- Maimonides Medical Center, Kronish 6 Patient Beds, Brooklyn, NY: Gut renovation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor into a 31 Patient Bed Unit. The design incorporated a wide material palette of "green" interior finishes to create a welcoming, warm and healthy space.
- Maimonides Medical Center, Master Plan, Brooklyn, NY: 250,000 sq/ft master plan renovation of the existing hospital and a nine story addition.

- Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY: Complete 5500 sq/ft interior renovation of the Pediatric Diabetes and Endocrine Center.
- Discovery Health Center, Harris, New York: LEED point person in the office. Documented the project using the LEED guidelines.

1998 - 2000

**Scarano & Associates - Brooklyn, New York**

Architect

- 99 Sutton Street, Brooklyn, NY: Renovation of the International Cork Company Factory; a 95'-0" x 115'-0" brick and heavy timber building built in the late 1800's, into 31 loft spaces for residential use. The original elements of the building were preserved and incorporated into both the public and private spaces.
- 126 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY: Redesign of a 640sq/ft apartment in Manhattan. The final design manipulated the vertical space of the apartment to create a Mezzanine Floor giving the client much needed extra floor space.
- 111 Hicks Street, Brooklyn, NY: Renovation of a 300sq/ft studio apartment. The intention of the design was to add an element into the space that would separate public from private without compromising light, air and the freedom of circulation.

1997 - 1998

**Freelance Architect - Fairfax, Virginia**

Design Consultant

- Provided a schematic design for 1500sq/ft home in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The design revolved around the Dining Room and Fireplace being the heart of the home.

Summer  
1996

**Harmony and Associates - Fredericksburg, Virginia**

Laborer

- Renovation of several homes which included exterior work, such as repairing slate roofs, structural work; replacing timber beams and basic interior renovation.

Studies

Summer  
1998

**Josep Llorens Artigas Foundation - Gallifa, Spain**

Ceramics

- Focused on hand-building techniques and completed pieces in a Japanese wood kiln.

Summer  
1995

**Straw - Bale Construction Workshop, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

Volunteer

- Assisted in the construction of classrooms using the straw- bale technique.

Summer  
1995

**Nadir Khalili Alternative Building Workshop - Mojave Dessert, California**

Independent Study

- Participated in the exploration of sandbag construction, brick domes and adobe bricks.

Media Skills

- Proficient in AutoCAD Release 2000, ArchiCAD (MAC Based), Photoshop 6.0, Pagemaker 6.5, Microsoft Word and Excel.

Community Involvement

Present

**Save Crow's Nest - Stafford County, Virginia**

- Member of Save Crow's Nest which is a non-partisan group of private citizens who believe that the Crow's Nest peninsula in Stafford County should remain undeveloped.  
[www.savecrowsnest.org](http://www.savecrowsnest.org)