

MICHELLE KALMAN

Sweet Edge Sculpture Tour co-founder, John McDevitt, is hosting Michelle Kalman as a guest artist on his property for the tour. Kalman makes powerful abstract work in clay that echoes many of the same graceful curves and flowing lines found in McDevitt's steel sculptures. "It is wonderful to see the interplay between my pieces and John's," Michelle says. "Visitors really respond to the similarities in shapes and contrasts in materials, and the way both bodies of work come alive in the sunlight and leaves."

Kalman makes sculpture that pushes the boundaries of ceramics in size and expression. Pieces featured at McDevitt's average three feet high, but she creates a variety of abstract work ranging from several inches tall to over five feet wide.

Whatever the size, Kalman's feminine forms are at once dramatic and elegant. They cantilever and twist in unusually seductive and graceful ways—almost like three-dimensional Georgia O'Keefe paintings. Her sculptures make bold, personal statements from every angle.

"Hand-building with clay is so sensual and intimate," comments Kalman. "I love to release the powerful movement and emotion inherent in a medium we often experience as rigid and functional. The suppleness of clay is perfect for exploring organic themes like fertility and flow."

Kalman's studio is located in Haverford, PA, but her work is fired by Buck's County artist Steve Tobin. "I am so fortunate to not be limited by the typical restrictions in ceramics," says Kalman. "Without Steve's expertise and the help of his crew to handle and transport my work, my big pieces would not exist." Tobin's kiln near Quakertown easily accommodates Kalman's sculptures as that are as big as six feet and weigh 700 pounds.

