



Gilda Aita: An Artist Profile

by Kara Elmore

You just feel good when you step into Aita Studios, into the realm of spiritual artist Gilda Aita. As your eyes dance around the room, you catch glimpses of color and light. Positive affirmations are tacked up around the room, prayer pots, spirit figures, whistles and more are displayed in almost every nook.

While studying art education at Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College), Gilda was exposed to a variety of media. Whether painting, weaving or working with clay, Gilda immersed herself into whatever art-making class in which she was enrolled. “If I was taking ceramics, I was always covered in mud and clay dust; when I was taking a fibers class, I was all in, constantly lugging my loom across campus,” says Aita.

During Gilda’s early years as an art educator with Wilkes County Schools, she did not focus on one media over another. This changed in 1991 when she was awarded a CB Eller grant for educators that allowed her to spend two weeks at The Penland School of Arts and Crafts studying ceramics. While there, she dove headfirst into working with clay and especially liked learning the art of tile-making.

After returning from The Penland School, Gilda immersed herself in tile-making projects. At the time, she and husband and fellow artist, Kevin, were restoring their historic home in downtown North Wilkesboro. She made tiles for the kitchen counters, the bathrooms, the floors and more. Gilda’s private art practice really took off then as she created a number of tile installations for private homes.



“Artist’s create the world they imagine, and make it real”



Aita’s students at Woodward Middle School (now Central Wilkes Middle) also benefited from her experiences at Penland. With urging and support from school administration, Gilda began working with the students to create a number of tile mural installations on the school grounds. Though the school has since been vacated and sold, many of the pieces remain today.

Over the years, Gilda’s work has evolved and grown. In recent years, she has explored the many unlimited possibilities of clay. Through these explorations, she has learned to mesh her intense spirituality with her clay works. “I believe we are all connected to each other and are part of god, therefore we all have the ability to tap into each other and know when we need help and healing of any kind. I produce one-of-a-kind hand-built pieces for individuals seeking spiritual and emotional growth,” writes Aita.





“You will find love and a whole lot of joy and peace.”

Gilda's artworks are intensely personal, both for the maker and the receiver. As a recipient of two of her works, I can attest that her abilities to intuitively feel others needs are uncanny. Last month, I received my latest Aita creation. My spirit ball came complete with a two page letter from Gilda. The ball correctly interprets many personal feelings I have been experiencing over the past few months and is complete with my affirmations. She writes to me, “Let go, breathe deep and take time to smell the flowers. You will find love and a whole lot of joy and peace.”

Gilda continues to grow and evolve as an artist, healer, and spiritual guide.

She says, "This is the most exciting work I have ever done. Creating pieces that encourage spiritual growth for me and others is an honor and a blessing."

Aita Studios is located at

502 E Street, North Wilkesboro,

NC. For more information

about Gilda or Aita Studios,
please visit

their website at

www.aitastudios.com

or call 336.838.1914

