

Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

**Cleve Carney Gallery**

September 27, 2009 - January 17, 2010

# Joanne Trestrail *Piecework*



Joanne Trestrail, Stoneware, 2008, 1 x 14 inches

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Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 [www.hydeparkart.org](http://www.hydeparkart.org)

The Hyde Park Art Center is a not-for-profit organization that presents innovative exhibitions, primarily work by Chicago-area artists, and educational programs in the visual arts for children and adults of diverse backgrounds. The Center is funded in part by the Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The MacArthur Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Orbit Fund; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; The Sara Lee Foundation; South East Chicago Commission; The Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.



Brown stoneware, iron oxide, 2009, 7 x 10 inches

### Related Events:

All events are free and open to the public.

### Exhibition Reception:

Sunday, September 27, 3 - 5 pm

### Art Thing:

Tuesday, October 6, 6-7pm

The artist will talk informally about her work.

### About the Artist:

Joanne Trestrail started taking ceramics classes at the Hyde Park Art Center in 2000. Previously she created figure sculpture in clay at the Koh-Varilla Guild, a working studio in Chicago dedicated to teaching techniques of the classic realist tradition. In addition to being a ceramic artist, Trestrail makes her living as a freelance writer, magazine editor, and restaurant critic. She has also taught photography at Jane Addams Center/Hull House.

*“It is hard to tell the truth about this bird. The habits of any peachicken left to himself would hardly be noticeable, but multiplied by forty, they become a situation.”*

—Flannery O’Connor (1925-1964)

“The King of the Birds”

When she wasn’t writing astonishing novels and short stories, Flannery O’Connor raised peafowl on her farm in Georgia. She started with a few birds and ended with many. “I intend to stand firm,” she wrote, “and let the peacocks multiply.”

The pleasures of incrementalism often go unappreciated. It may be because the sensation of experiencing life in small bites—moments, words, stitches, breaths, keystrokes, eighth notes, coffee spoons, dollars, dust—is so familiar, it’s hard to see, much less enjoy. All-or-nothing, out-of-nowhere dramatic gestures grab our attention and insist on their own significance, however inexplicably. Gradual pile-ups have a stealthier take on time. They evolve beyond the sum of their tiny, dull parts to become something entirely new, yet readable and, with luck, understandable. Hence the short story, the friendship, the life, the coiled pot.



Glazed brown stoneware, 2009, 8 x 10 inches

All of the pieces in *Piecework* were made at the Hyde Park Art Center. They were coiled from brown and gray stoneware and, in some cases, porcelain. Most were fired in a reducing atmosphere to cone 10. Hand-building with coils—ropes of clay—is an ancient way of working that involves few, if any, tools. Like natural forms such as canyons and coral, objects made this way can assume almost any size or shape as they grow. They take their time. They may or may not involve symmetry. Their surfaces can hide the method of their creation or reveal it. My pieces were inspired by my pleasure in making them.

-- Joanne Trestrail