It all started when I was convinced by a co-worker to take a ceramic class in early 2018. I thought it would be a good thing to try just to have something to do with my co-workers. The classes were at the Ceramic League of Miami which made it even more interesting. The non-profit membership run league was founded in 1950 by a group of women artists who came together to nurture their interest and skills in the ceramic arts and provide education on ceramics to the community.
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So here are examples from my first class. I found that in order to concentrate on making the clay into a shape, I couldn’t concentrate on work, problem or anything else. I think this one of the main draws of ceramics for me. A powerful way to relax and enjoy myself.
As a beginner, I made plenty of mistakes. I call these my floppy pots. My instructor told me to just scrape them and start over, but I never made a pot I didn’t want to see finished. The interesting thing about these is I ended up with four floppy pots over my first couple of classes. And sitting there looking at them, I realized I had four great pots to create a waterfall feature. It is still on my list to do.
As I learned more about ceramics, the more I wanted to learn. These examples made last year are unique in that I created the glaze myself from a recipe online. I found the 70s avocado to be one of the most interesting glazes I made.
There are always a few favorites. Here are some examples of learning to stamp into clay and use translucent glaze to create effects. I never enjoyed making handles, but the middle picture is my “Greek” vase. The green in all of the bots on the right are “candy apple green” but come with different results as you mix them with other glazes.
I continued to work with different techniques for carving into the clay to create effects by the glazes. The light brown vase on the right was when I began working with different types of clay. This one is actually a black clay from Spain. Once it is fired, the clay will be completely black.
Then due to the opportunity to come to WVU, I found a new studio here were I could continue to enjoy and learn. As glaze recipes are often unique for a studio, these are my first examples of working with the glazes here.
As it often happens, I have now decided to set up my own studio in my house. Here are some first examples of me testing out my new wheel. The photo on the left are examples of different clays that I’m hoping to test in my new kiln once it arrives and is set up. The others are the first pots I made using one of the new clays I am testing.