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Alyssa Evans
aevans@dailyastorian.com

WEEKEND BREAK



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OUT OF THE KILN, INTO YOUR HANDS

Ceramicist crafts purposeful pottery

By RAY GARCIA
For The Astorian

Sitting in her Astoria studio, Audrey Long plops a rectangular piece of clay onto a pottery wheel. As the wheel spins, she starts pulling at the malleable material, rounding its edges as it becomes more cylindrical. Instead of forcing a specific shape, Long lets the clay move on its own accord. By the second or third pull, magic happens.

“It’s that last little moment of pull when you get to the top, look down and see what the clay has done in your hands,” she said. “That moment is wonderful.”

Long is an award-winning ceramicist with more than 18 years of professional experience. She is also the co-owner and creative director of Cambium Gallery, which opened in August 2020.

Long is from Detroit. In ninth grade, she found that her high school had an exceptional pottery program, ran by a teacher who obtained his doctorate in

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TOP: Kirista Trask, left, and Audrey Long stand in front of Cambium Gallery.

ABOVE: Long trims off excess material while finishing a cup.

LEFT: Long pulls the wall of a cup.

BELOW: Long pours and dips glaze.

Photos by Tristan Paige

