

## Artist Statement for Deborah Nagano

I always loved art as a child, but got sidetracked with a career in law. Throughout the years, I nurtured my artistic side by taking classes in drawing, painting, and sculpting.

I discovered polymer clay many years ago but believed that it was strictly an odd sculptural medium, wasn't much good for anything else, and was used primarily by children. In 2004 I took a polymer clay class and was struck by the versatility of the medium, and realized that its possibilities were limitless. It struck a chord with me, unlike any of my other artistic ventures. I joined Clayville-California, a polymer clay guild, took workshops and continued to expand my knowledge and grow as a polymer clay artist. I am still amazed by the endless opportunities to explore color, texture, pattern, and shape with polymer clay. Since I have always loved jewelry, it has been the primary focus of my work. My work is eclectic: sometimes I want my pieces to be pretty and shiny, and at other times I am attracted to unusual shapes, textures, patterns or color combinations. Still other times I create things because I want to make people smile, such as my lizard and fish pins. My work is my heartfelt expression, and I hope you will enjoy it.

