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The Eternal Dance

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Within each and every one of us lies a battle of good versus evil. There is a conflict between what is right and what is wrong. It is a delicate balance between two divine forces that can either consume us, or lead us along a path of self-awareness. The Eternal Dance is about that never ending battle, a continual pattern that trickles across the planes of the universe and through every human soul. Each segment of the pattern represents a different part of our consciousness: the foundations and structures of what makes us human beings.

This tiles series began as an exploration of antique Moroccan patterns in bold, vibrant hues. The first set began as a process of hand-rolling stoneware clay into thin slabs, cutting them and then drying them very slowly to become a flat tile. After firing the tiles, I painted them by hand into intricate quatrefoil patterns. This series led me into a deeper exploration of the way antique tiles were made, where I discovered the Art Nouveau process called Cuenca tiles. This process, dating back to the Moors in Spain in 711 A.D., involves inlaying glazes into little pockets, where the higher reliefs are left unglazed to create contrast in the finish. After all these seeds were planted into my brain, I created a stamp out of craft foam, rolled it into the clay and developed a new, unique process of creating tiles. I tested a variety of glaze combinations and colorants, and developed a palette that expressed a set of colors that represents my soul; a set of earth tone colors that I have always been drawn to.

While creating the set an overwhelming discomfort came over me as whether to leave the blemishes behind or to correct them. Should the pattern be perfectly lined up, or can there be discontinuity within the form? The patterns, flaws, perfections and colors within these tiles have a deep representation of human consciousness, the soul, and the battle of good versus evil. The very creation of the tile itself exists because of the divine creative force that lies within my soul. The perimeter of the tile, a square-like form is the outer shell of being. It is the structure of your

character, it is what people see on the outside, what holds you together and conveys your emotions. This shell is not always perfect; it has flaws and, for the most part, can be controlled. The inner structure, which is compass like in shape, represents your beliefs, morals, consciousness, awareness, cognition, discernment and all of those things in which you have a little less control over. They are a compilation of every moment you have ever had, every decision you have ever made that makes you who you are. The innermost part of the pattern, which looks like an arrow or point, is the subconscious. It is your greater self, your divine purpose of being, the intuition and your connection to the spiritual realms. You have no control over this part of yourself; it is the free form expression of the creative force of Life herself. What lines in between these structural forms is a pattern that represents life. This is where you encounter big decisions, people that come and go, occurrences in life that you don't really have control over. The small blue square that is the same in every tile represents the constant flow of energy that is in every one of us. Each tile contains the same glazes, but no two tiles are alike; just like no two paths of consciousness on Earth will ever be equal. No two battles are the same; everyone is finding their own unique pattern in Life, everyone is facing an eternal dance. The big question is, which side of the battle will win?



