

Dennis McAvoy

Artist Statement

I threw my first pot on a treadle wheel in Searcy, Arkansas in 1978. I was hooked. I have always loved working with my hands. In 1988 I abandoned the corporate life to become a full time Studio Potter.

My work today is a result of all past experiences and influences. I have chosen to work mainly with Crystalline glazes to embrace the challenge and complexity in developing a glaze that works as I expect. And once it does, because of the nature of the glaze, no two pieces will ever be alike. I like the unpredictability of the results along with the precise path that must be followed to get there. My goal is to develop a unique body of work that will be both functional and decorative that collectors will enjoy using and displaying.

Biography

Studio Potter

- Working in Clay since 1978
- Hands on experience with most forms of clay forming and finishing
- Now working almost exclusively with crystalline glazes

Education and Training:

- Electrical Engineering Degree from University of Detroit in 1968
- Glaze formulation course with Pete Pinnell at Arrowmont
- Surface decoration course with Steve Howell at Arrowmont
- Metal fabrication course at Arrowmont

Experience:

- I started as a Project Engineer in 1968 and left the same company as Worldwide Quality Manager in 1988 to pursue life as a Studio Potter.
- Worked as a Studio Potter for several years and then started expanding and hiring coworkers to increase production.
- Developed and manufactured a product line that was marketed throughout the United States.
- Responsible for all management functions of the business.
- Sold the company in 2015 moved to Burnsville and am now a Studio Potter.

“Whether it be corporate life or small business ownership I always have enjoyed what I do. I look at the experiences of all of my previous years as training for what I am now doing. I chose Crystalline glazes as a concentration because of the complexities of the continuous journey and the rewards (and disappointments) when I open the kiln.”