

Michael Rutkowsky

Artist Statement

I make a wide array of pottery forms that are both functional and decorative. My pots are an expression of my love for the process and medium of clay, slips, and glazes; all of which I have formulated and continue to make from the raw materials. Firing to cone 10 reduction, the outcome is never 100% predictable; leaving room for chance, which I find very exciting and rewarding. Mine is a non self-conscious approach to art using simple tools and materials; spontaneously allowing the ongoing process of the work to suggest its own variations, and encouraging a more intuitive approach to creativity.

Short Biography

Educational Experience

- 1968-72 B.S.B.A. Economics, University of Central Florida
- 1972-75 Photography and Ceramics, University of Central Florida
- 1975-76 Ceramics, University of South Florida
- 1976-79 M.F.A. Ceramics and Sculpture, Graduate teaching assistantship, University of South Carolina
- 1976-79 SuperMud conferences, Penn State University
- 2004 Majolica, Painting Pots” workshop taught by Stanley Mace Andersen Penland School of Crafts, Penland, NC

Professional Experience

- 1979 Established Pond Branch Pottery near Leesville, SC. Four years wood firing stoneware then converting to propane gas.
- 1985 Began the move to Green Mountain, NC.
- 1989 Juried into Southern Highlands Craft Guild
- 1996 Art Education delegation to Mongolia, China, and Thailand
- 1999 Moved to present studio near Burnsville, NC.
- 2000 Taught workshop “Beyond Centering” at John C. Campbell Folk School
- 2001 Recipient of Regional Artist Project Grant administered by Asheville Area Arts Council
- 2002 “Beyond Centering” taught again at John C. Campbell Folk School.
- 2007-08 Wood-firing partner to Norman Schulman, Penland, NC
- 2009 “Hand and Wheel Ceramics” classes taught at Yancey Center for Ceramic Arts
- 2010 Founder and Co-owner of OOAK Gallery, Micaville, NC