

Ben McCracken

Ben has been making pottery since his adolescence. His beloved auntie Nancy taught him how to throw pots when he was 15, in the hills of western Pennsylvania. Ben fell in love with clay and continued his pursuit at the University of Pennsylvania, studying under Frank Ross. He also attended the Haystack-Hinkley School of Crafts with Paulus Berensohn and Ron Probst as his mentors.

Majoring in ceramics, Ben attended the University of California at San Diego and ran a pottery studio in Del Mar, California.

As president of a cut flower business in Albuquerque, he grew and sold exotic cut flowers from New Mexico and around the world. Rekindling his love for ceramics, Ben attended the University of New Mexico, where he worked with Gina Brobowski and Bill Gilbert.

Currently, Ben is excited about teaching classes at his South Valley studio and is a member of Fuse (Anagama Wood Fire Guild) and the New Mexico Potters Association. Ben's pottery's forms evoke the shapes and architecture which he has experienced during his travels to South East Asia. The human form also inspires his work and he will often throw and alter pieces, creating human like curves and voluptuous, full-bodied shapes. Glazes which rely on nature's elements and colors complement the organic forms of his work. Shape, color, fire, traditional and modern techniques all combine to produce a unique piece of art.

