

*Keith D Smith  
As 11 Moons Pottery*

Keith D Smith is a professional potter from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Raised in Kansas City, Missouri & educated at Eastern New Mexico University & the University of Missouri, Keith has lived in New Mexico since 1969.



He began his training as a production potter making high-fired functional ware. After an apprenticeship which focused on throwing porcelain forms on the wheel, Keith began work on his own. His work is primarily Raku-fired porcelain & stoneware.

Raku is a firing method which originated in Japan in the 14th century. The glazed pots are heated to the temperature at which the clay becomes hard & the glaze becomes liquid. This occurs at about 1800°F.

The pots are then pulled from the kiln with tongs while they are still hot & placed in any combustible material such as sawdust, hay or pine needles. Then pots are smothered with more combustible material & allowed to smolder & cool. After they have cooled, they are scrubbed to remove the carbon from the glazed surfaces; where glaze is absent, the surface is saturated with carbon & is black.



The many variables involved in this firing method allow for endless possibilities for creative expression & ensures that each pot is unique.

The variety of glazes which Keith has developed contain various metals such as copper, gold & silver. These glazes, fired according to the Raku method, account for the unique colors which decorate his forms.

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