



FRANK POLIZZI



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LEFT: FRANK THROWING A VASE ON THE POTTERS WHEEL

Just the Facts!

Frank Polizzi - [The Mulberry Pottery](#) - Mineral Point

Artist medium: Stoneware, porcelain and earthenware

Primary method of working: Wheel throwing and wood firing

Favorite surface/technique treatment: Sgraffito, incising, and stamping

Equipment used: Kick wheels, 120 cu.ft. Fast Firewood burning kiln, and 8 cu.ft. pit kiln

Favorite tools: Old chopstick for incised and sgraffito decorations.

Favorite Studio playlist: WORT FM Radio and classic big band jazz CDs



OUTSIDE KILN STUDIO BY DAY



FRANK OUTSIDE PIT FIRING



KILN STUDIO BY NIGHT DURING A FIRING

Artist Conversation!

Let's Learn a Little More...

Tell us a little bit about yourself and how you came to be living life the you are today?

I discovered pottery in college when I arrived early to pick up my sweetheart, now wife, from her pottery class to go to a movie. Fascinated by the kids making pots, I found an empty wheel and gave it a try. We never made it to the movie. My most influential instructor, Roger Gottschalk, had studied at one of the top pottery departments in the country and generously shared his knowledge. He also pushed me from the nest and introduced me to Mineral Point, where I have been a studio potter for 43 years.

How do you keep things fresh and your mind engaged?

My relationship with my wife, Barb, and clay has come full circle after its beginnings in college. When our children were young, they played hide and seek in the Winter Studio and later clerked at the Studio/Gallery in town. As empty nesters, we visited North and South Carolina for their pottery traditions and stoneware clay, Santa Fe for its Native American shapes and techniques, and Cornwall, England as a pilgrimage to the Leach Pottery and Wheal Martyn's porcelain mine. Transitioning from a library director career, Barb is now a full partner as business manager, clerk, and assistant pot trimmer.



CARVED FISH PATTERN VASE



THROWN PITCHER



TALL CARVED VASE



THROWN SPOUTED BOWL



DEMONSTRATING ON THE WHEEL DURING
THE 2019 FALL ART TOUR

RIGHT: GUESTS ENJOYING THE MULBERRY POTTERY DURING THE 2019 FALL ART TOUR



UNFIRED PIECES AFTER BEING ASSEMBLED



FIRED & COMPLETED PIECE



UNFIRED VESSELS & LIDS



FIRED & COMPLETED CROCKS

Will you tell us a little more about your Studio?

The Mulberry Pottery Studio/Gallery is in downtown Mineral Point. The original building on the site was the City Hotel, one of the oldest hotels in Wisconsin. After its demise, a feed store was constructed in the 1940s. We purchased the two-story building in 1988 and converted it into an open and airy studio/gallery with a student studio on the upper level. Our Winter Studio in rural Mineral Point is a 130-year-old cheese factory. Our family lives upstairs, just like the cheesemaker's family. Downstairs, where they used to produce cheese, we produce pottery.

Where do you find your inspiration?

Michael Cardew wrote in his autobiography, *A Pioneer Potter*, "...it is clear to me that the landing of Bernard Leach and Shoji Hamada on the island of Britain in 1920 was for craftsman potters the most significant event of the twentieth century." My work is influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement of the 1880s-1920s and is meant to bring nature into our homes by using glazes dug from the ground and firing with wood. I base my forms on the classic pottery of ancient cultures around the world.

Where can we find your work and learn more?

We market our pottery in both print and online resources, including regional tourism guides, the local newspaper, the Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce website, and our own website:

www.themulberrypottery.com

As a member of the Fall Art Tour, we receive excellent online and print promotion. Word of mouth remains an important marketing tool. Our quality product, warm atmosphere, and interesting service has created years of return customers.