



JOELLE WHITE



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LEFT: JOELLE ATTACHING A SMALL HANDLE TO A LARGE FLOWER VASE

Just the Facts!

Joelle White - [The Globe Clay Center](#) - Mineral Point

Medium: Stoneware clay and decorating slip

Method of working: Throwing on the potter's wheel

Surface technique: Slip decorated floral designs and filigree. Glazing at the leather-hard stage and wood-firing.

Equipment: Potter's wheel, electric kiln for bisquing to transport to the wood kiln.

Favorite tools: wooden rib, metal rib, small bamboo paint brush for surface decoration, and a slip trailing bulb.

Studio Playlist: Lately it's been Sylvan Esso, Rainbow Kitten Surprise, Wild Child, and Shakey Graves...



FINISHED PIECES FRESH FROM THE KILN



SOME PIECES IN THE STUDIO WHILE BEING DECORATED



IVY THE STUDIO PUP

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 grew up on a farm outside of small town Stockton, IL and moved to Wisconsin to attend UW-Platteville and pursue a biology degree. Each semester I took Ceramics as a creative outlet where I met my instructor Bruce Howdle, a well-known ceramic mural artist from Mineral Point. After graduating I continued with clay despite my degree. Bruce introduced me to Joe and Christy Cole of Windy Ridge Pottery where I became their studio assistant for a few years and moved to Mineral Point. There I learned more about wood-firing, mixing glazes from natural materials like wood ash and local red clay, and glazing at the leather-hard stage of drying instead of after bisque. I kept in touch with Bruce and went to work at his studio in early 2018. Bruce gave me gallery and studio space in exchange for helping around the studio. We converted his mural room in The Sardeson building next door into a classroom for pottery workshops

through Shake Rag Alley. In August 2018, Bruce passed away unexpectedly. My twin sister, Katie, and I had to teach ourselves a crash course on how to open and run our own business in order to keep the gallery doors open. Bruce's wife, Sue, lives in their apartment on the top floor of the building and is happy to have us continue in the Howdle gallery and studio.

How do you keep things fresh and your mind engaged?

I used to have a full-time job and worked on pottery after work and on weekends. In the last couple years I made the leap as a full-time potter and business owner. It's nice to slow down and focus on what matters to me, which is my passion for clay. Not that it is necessarily slow. As a wood-fire artist, the work goes in cycles. There are times of all studio, all the time to make enough pots to fill the kiln by a certain date. Then there is loading, firing, unloading, cleaning the pots, photographing and updating the online store. Once that is done, there can be time to relax, plant a garden, have dinner with my partner, take the dog for a walk, or crochet a hat while I watch the gallery.



SMALL CUP



DECORATED PIE PLATE



VASE



TEAPOT



SOME PIECES ON A TABLE IN THE STUDIO

RIGHT: SISTERS, JOELLE & KATIE,
WORKING IN THEIR SHARED
POTTERY STUDIO



DECORATED PLATE



MUG WITH A DECORATIVE
FLOWER DESIGN



VASE WITH FRESH FLOWERS



THREE DINNER PLATES

Tell us a little bit about your Studio!

I share my studio with my twin sister in the late Bruce Howdle's historically renovated building. The building was originally built as the Globe Hotel in the late 1800's. Joelle and I were Bruce's studio assistants for a year before he passed away in August of 2018. The basement studio has limestone walls and concrete floors. You can still hear a natural spring that runs beneath the floor. This space contains two electric kilns where we do our bisque firing as well as a clay mixer and pug mill and glaze mixing area. Most of our actual making happens in the adjacent building where we rent The Sardeson Clay Studio from Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts. This space is equipped with several potters wheels and a slab roller.

Where do you find your inspiration?

Visual: Wild flowers such as sunflowers, coneflowers, and daisies inspire my surface decoration. I am drawn to loose, functional pottery. Imperfections, tool marks, and fingerprints in the clay are attractive to me, they don't have to be so perfect.

Research: There is a great book by Clary Illian "A Potter's Workbook" on form and function and trusting your own eye.

People: I took a workshop at Adamah Art Studio with Linda Christianson. Linda inspires you to develop pots that YOU love. Play with forms, push the limits, and find out what visually draws you to a great piece of pottery and then try to create that.

How do you market your work and where can we learn more?

We have a photo booth set up in the basement studio, where we photograph work. Most of our marketing is done on social media, [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#).

All of our online sales are done through our [website](#).

Katie and I will usually do a few small craft fairs throughout the year. I also have gallery representation at Reuben Saunders Gallery in Wichita, KS and have featured work at Taliesin Visitor Center in Spring Green. We both recently worked with Duluth Trading Company and are featured in their catalogs and website as well.