



# KATIE WHITE



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LEFT: KATIE WORKS ON A LARGE PIECE IN HER DOWNTOWN MINERAL POINT STUDIO

## Just the Facts!

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

**Medium:**

Porcelain clay

**Surface treatment/s:**

Hand carved surfaces and fired in a wood kiln

**Favorite tools:**

Wire loop carving tools

**Method of working:**

Thrown and altered work as well as hand building

**Equipment used:**

Potters wheel, slab roller

**Studio playlist:**

Oldies, bluegrass, "Tales of a Red Clay Rambler" podcast



POTS IN THE KILN WHILE BEING FIRED



A TABLE FULL OF NEW WORK, FRESH FROM THE KILN



POTTERY ON DISPLAY AT THE GLOBE CLAY CENTER

# 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 in Stockton, IL and attended college at Northern Illinois University where I received my BFA in ceramics in 2012. I was accepted into a ceramic residency at The Cub Creek Foundation in Appomattox, VA in 2013. Here, I focused on creating my own studio practice and was better acquainted with wood firing. I, then, spent three years as an Artist in Residence at WSU in Wichita, KS. While working alongside professors and grad students, I learned to soda fire in a gas kiln and worked in marketing my functional work and gallery representation. I attended another residency program at Red Lodge Clay Center in Red Lodge, MT before moving back to the Midwest. I moved to Mineral Point in June of 2017. My sister, Joelle was already living here and she introduced me to her College Professor, Bruce Howdle who taught at UW-Platteville. We both became Bruce's studio assistants and began sharing a studio for the first time.

**How do you keep things fresh and your mind engaged?**

With wood-firing, the kiln is generally a large outdoor kiln that takes a good amount of work to fill before it is fired. We typically fire three times a year, so we work in cycles of heavy studio production leading up to the firing. The time after we unload the kiln is used for photographing and listing to our online store as well as marketing and promotion. After that, I usually take time for home obligations and try to get out in nature as often as possible. I tend to take up other interests like sewing and knitting in the fall and winter months. I can usually tell when it's time to get my hands back in the clay, though.



THREE HOP NECKLACE



TWO MUGS



LIDDED POT



CLUSTER OF VASES



SOME FRESH FIRED PIECES STILL IN THE KILN

RIGHT: KATIE WORKING ON SOME MUGS



SUCCULENT IN A PLANTER



BASKET OF HOP PENDANTS



MUG IN THE WINTER



TWO CUPS & A JUG

### 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?

In order to find inspiration for my work, I enjoy studying plant forms and natural patterns. I have been interested in The Fibonacci spiral for years. This is the mathematical "Golden Ratio" found all over the natural world. From sea shells to sunflowers seeds, pinecones, succulents, and flower petals, this amazing order can be discovered. I love to carve these intricate patterns on the surface of my work. I begin by either throwing or hand building a piece before mapping out the pattern by hand. Next, I will push out from the inside to create more exaggerated volume before carving the surface at the leather-hard stage. While finding my own voice and style of work, I took influence from artists like Jennifer McCurdy and Mark Leuthold.

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

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

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

Joelle 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.