

Artist Profile

AJ Keesee

Two Visions Pottery
Hours by Appointment
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I continue to hand build many functional as well as decorative pieces. My work includes acorn rattle ornaments, wall vases, mini berry bowls, butter dishes, salt shakers, wall vases, flower pillows, and "Wise Words" bowls. I am enjoying alternative firing methods such as Raku and sagger firing. I am also making my own molds for bowls, vases, and tiles. Many of the molds have hand carved designs.

Artist Bio

Annette J Keesee is a Georgia native, but grew up in Greensboro, NC. AJ earned her nickname and a teaching degree at Appalachian State University. She enjoyed an introductory pottery class at ASU. She began teaching and didn't touch clay again for 20 years. Earning a masters degree from East Carolina University along the way, she taught elementary school for 26 years, mostly in Brunswick County, NC.

Before retiring in 2000, she took a beginner pottery class one summer. This rekindled her love of clay and artistic spirit. She built a studio and started a pottery business with her daughter. Thus the name of the business, Two Visions Pottery. AJ has taken classes continuously since 1997, through Orange Street Pottery in Wilmington, Jeffcoat Pottery in Calabash, and currently at the Odyssey Center in Asheville. She has also attended and staged numerous workshops with internationally known artists.

Through the Associated Artists of Southport, AJ exhibited and sold her work at the Franklin Square Gallery in Southport, NC for 10 years. AJ won two first place awards, one third, a merit, and two honorable mentions in coastal area art shows. Two Visions Pottery has juried into the Azalea Festival Master Crafts show 3 years in Wilmington, NC. AJ continues to sell her pottery at Sunset River Marketplace in Calabash, NC. Her move to Leicester in December 2007 has been an exciting life change. She sold her home and studio in Supply, NC to her daughter, to help the struggling younger artist advance in pottery. It was like coming home to move to the Asheville area, since Ms. Keesee's father was born and grew up in nearby Fairview. AJ is excited about being a part of the mountain art community and finds fresh inspiration daily in the beautiful surroundings near Leicester.



Artist Statement

For me clay is the most intimate medium for exploring my artistic imagination. I strive to make my pottery tactile and intriguing. I am inspired by the 3 dimensional canvas that is clay to experiment with textures, colors, and surface decoration. I enjoy experimenting with different firing methods. With natural forms, new and traditional patterns, familiar figures and whimsical images I hope to enhance and enrich people's lives.

