

the Art Cellar

Bill Jones

Bill Jones is a studio potter working in Western North Carolina. His work pulls heavily from languages of traditional functional pottery while also focusing on the sculptural potential of clay. He has held several artist-in-residence positions and has taught and exhibited around the country including at The Smithsonian Craft Show and The St. Croix Valley Pottery Tour.



Jones grew up in an old stone farmhouse and from an early age found beauty in simple articulations of material. A loosely laid stone wall, a sketch done with a finger in damp sand, the haphazard stability of a quickly erected structure. These childhood inclinations led to many hours spent drawing and making - and eventually to many hours in the architecture and design studios at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania where he graduated in 2010.

Seeking a more physical connection with material, Jones began to work with clay in 2011. He started as a work-study student at Penland School of Craft in North Carolina where he learned from several working studio potters. As his interest and connection with the material strengthened, Jones sought out a formal apprenticeship in the Leach/Cardew tradition. Two years as an apprentice gave him a strong foundation and a deep aesthetic well to pull from going forward.

Through the physicality of turning clay at the potter's wheel, Jones seeks to push and pull on the traditional language of functional pottery, always searching for a framework within which he can improvise and play. Alluding to the ever-changing nature of the things we recall, Jones's catalog of work expresses a personal process of distortion and recombination.