

PENLAND GALLERY

SEAN O'CONNELL

Red Lodge, MT
seanoconnellpottery.com

CLAY | Functional pottery with decorated surfaces

Penland Affiliation | Penland Instructor 2019

Artist Information | Studio artist; Education & Communications Coordinator, Red Lodge Clay Center (MT); education: MFA Rochester Institute of Technology; teaching: Penland, Arrowmont (TN), The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (IL), Alberta College of Art and Design (Canada); exhibitions: Radius Gallery (MT), AKAR (IA), Eutectic Gallery (OR).

Artist Statement | *I am a potter. I believe in the beauty of handmade objects. Making pots is a deliberate attempt at slowing down, connecting to something deeper, and taking time to appreciate the pleasure of labor. In addition, I value the constraints of working with one material and with a certainty of purpose. This allows me to explore notions of beauty and cultivate a sense of order.*

My forms focus on creating a space for their intended use as well as acting as a canvas for patterns. I use pattern as a means of exploring the nature of abstraction, representation, and beauty. What is most compelling about the use of pattern is that its meaning can be elastic and fluid, it requires only one small graphic element used in repetition to become something greater than the sum of its parts.

Many of the motifs I use are adapted or interpreted from textiles, paintings, and natural geometry. My formal vocabulary is culled from historic and contemporary ceramic art, design, and my own few novel additions. It is within these chosen limitations that I search for a sense of beauty, self-expression, and common experience.

Technical Information | Wheel thrown porcelain, decorated underglaze

Penland School of Craft | Penland Gallery & Visitors Center
3135 Conley Ridge Road, Penland, NC 28765
gallery@penland.org | 828 765 6211
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