



Jean's Clay Studio

Enhancing Your Daily Rituals

Artist Biography

Jean Smaglik Wells, a professional potter for over 25 years, creates contemporary stoneware pottery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Known for her graphic designs, Jean's uses an age-old technique called "sgraffito" in which her stylized designs are individually hand drawn and carved through colored clay on every piece.

Jean studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art from 1985-1988, majoring in Ceramics and minoring in Portrait Painting. She went on to work as an apprentice at Geneva Art Pottery with John and Claire Bailey in Lake Geneva, WI in 1990 and started her own studio practice in the early 90's.

Jean currently sells most of her work directly through her online Etsy shop and at regional Art & Craft shows. Notably, Jean created a successful series of 'limited edition' handmade mugs for Colectivo Coffee shops in the Milwaukee/Madison/Chicago areas. In 2017, the USGA commissioned Jean to create commemorative pieces for the US Open Golf Championship held at Erin Hills Golf Course in Wisconsin.

Jean is the current president of the Wisconsin Designer Craft Council and a member of the Milwaukee Artists Resource Network and Local First Milwaukee. She is also co-founder of Milwaukee Empty Bowls, established in 1999, an organization that has raised over 900,000 dollars for local food pantries and meal programs in SE Wisconsin.

You can find Jean's Clay Studio on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Pinterest.

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Jean's Clay Studio
8469 N 50th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53223
414-651-0508
www.jeansclaystudio.com

