



## Jean's Clay Studio

Enhancing Your Daily Rituals

### Jean Wells Artist Statement

I began drawing and carving onto my pieces a few years into my life as a potter and have never stopped. My designs have always been inspired by nature and have evolved to include everyday household objects and popular iconography. I strive to create imagery that can be visually beautiful, and at times, somewhat playful.



My stylized designs are carved onto each piece by a process called “sgraffito” or “slip-carving.” After the piece is thrown on the wheel and trimmed, a layer of colored clay called “slip” is brushed on to the surface. Once the slip has been allowed to dry slightly, I hand draw and carve the design through the slip. Colored highlights are painted on after the first firing in the kiln. A clear glaze is applied and fired once more to over 2000 degrees to finish the piece.

The functional aspect of pottery is extremely important to my work. I want to make objects that are durable, of high quality, and used every day with ease. I choose to work with stoneware for this purpose and keep my forms and shapes smooth and simple to showcase the graphic designs I create.

All of my pieces are made exclusively on the potter's wheel, hand drawn, carved and painted. No molds, forms, stencils, stamps or decals are used. I feel this adds an amazing amount of energy and spirit to each piece along with a distinctive and unique identity for the object and its owner.

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