



BEN OWEN III

Tradition & Vision

Pucker Gallery | Boston

*“When we abandon tradition and culture,
there are no honest roots for creativity.”*

— BROTHER THOMAS BEZANSON



Sung jar, frog skin glaze
Stoneware
37.5 x 22 x 22"
BO90

COVER: *Bottle, patina green glaze*
Stoneware, wood fired
30 x 16 x 16"
BO94



Pitcher, cobalt frost glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
9.25 x 6 x 6"
BO127



Sung jar, ash glaze
Stoneware
24 x 14.5 x 14.5"
BO88



Pitcher, ash and cobalt glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
9 x 6.5 x 6.5"
BO123



Mug, patina green glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
4.25 x 6 x 4"
BO105



Mug, khaki glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
4.25 x 5.5 x 4.5"
BO121



Covered jar, pomegranate glaze
Porcelain
29 x 15.25 x 15.25"
BO108



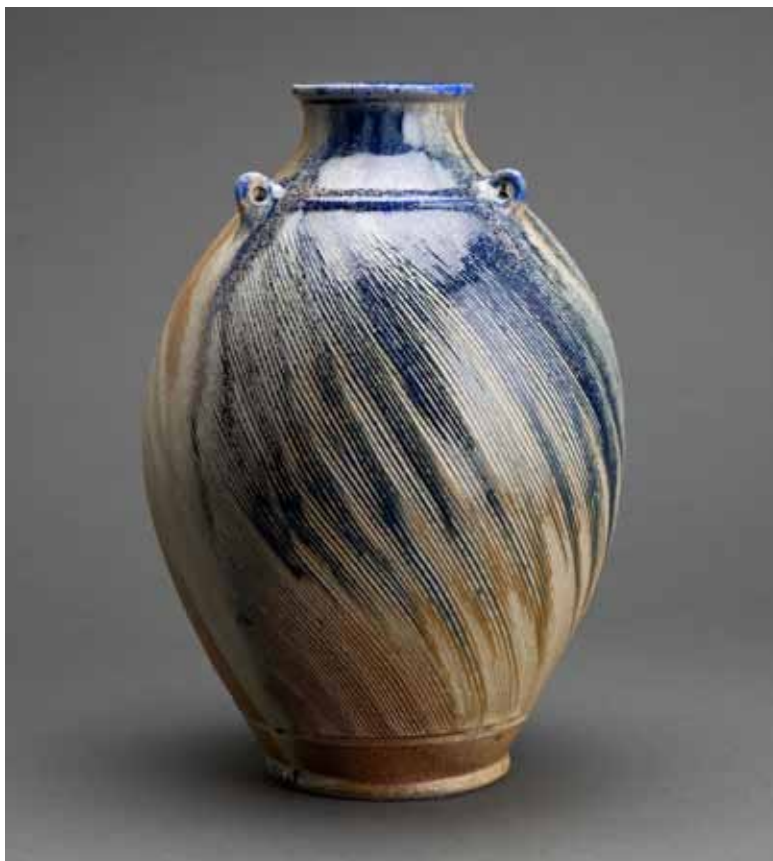
Egg vase, ash and cobalt glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
5.5 x 4 x 4"
BO129



Egg vase, ash and cobalt glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
5.5 x 4 x 4"
BO130



Melon egg vase, purple haze glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
6 x 4 x 4"
BO131



Edo jar, ash and cobalt glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
13.5 x 9 x 9"
BO126



Covered jar, patina green glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
12.5 x 6.75 x 6.75"
BO95



Left:
Edo jar, patina green glaze
 Stoneware, wood fired
 13 x 9.25 x 9.25"
 BO97

Right:
Edo jar, patina green glaze
 Stoneware, wood fired
 9.5 x 6 x 6"
 BO100



Left:
Vase, khaki glaze with combed decoration
 Stoneware, wood fired
 13 x 6.75 x 6.75"
 BO118

Center:
Egg vase, khaki glaze
 Stoneware, wood fired
 6 x 3.75 x 3.75"
 BO106

Right:
Hourglass vase, khaki glaze
 Stoneware, wood fired
 9.25 x 5.5 x 5.5"
 BO120



Tea bowl, Chinese blue and red glaze
Porcelain
2.5 x 5.25 x 5.25"
BO116



Egg vase, khaki glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
17.5 x 11.75 x 11.75"
BO117



Tang vase, Chinese blue and red glaze
Porcelain
15.5 x 9.75 x 9.75"
BO109



Melon egg vase, patina blue-green glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
11 x 7.5 x 7.5"
BO98



Edo jar, patina green glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
16.5 x 11.5 x 11.5"
BO96



Trumpet flair bowl, patina blue-green glaze
Porcelain
3.5 x 12.5 x 12.5"
BO102



Hourglass vase, ash and cobalt glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
10 x 5.5 x 5.5"
BO122



Bottle, patina blue-green glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
10.25 x 6 x 6"
BO99



Left:
Flair bowl, patina green glaze
 Porcelain
 1.5 x 4.5 x 4.5"
 BO104

Right:
Flair bowl, patina green glaze
 Porcelain
 1.5 x 4.5 x 4.5"
 BO103



Left:
Dogwood vase, Chinese blue and red glaze
 Porcelain
 12.25 x 6.75 x 6.75"
 BO110

Right:
Bottle, Chinese blue and red glaze with carved decoration
 Porcelain
 10 x 8 x 8"
 BO112



Sung jar, ash and cobalt glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
12.5 x 6.75 x 6.75"
BO125



Han vase, Chinese blue and red glaze
Porcelain
11.5 x 8.25 x 8.25"
BO111



Covered jar, cobalt frost glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
9.75 x 5.5 x 5.5"
BO119



Globe vase, patina green glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
8 x 6.5 x 6.5"
BO101



Gourd vase, blue stardust glaze
Porcelain
17.75 x 9 x 9"
BO85



Mug, Chinese blue and red glaze
Porcelain
4.5 x 5.75 x 4.25"
BO114



Mug, Chinese blue and red glaze
Porcelain
4 x 6 x 4.25"
BO113



Pear vase, Chinese green and red glaze
Porcelain
8.75 x 6 x 6"
BO115



Edo jar, copper penny and ash glaze
Stoneware
11 x 7.5 x 7.5"
BO89



Edo jar, cobalt frost glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
9.25 x 6 x 6"
BO128



Covered jar, ash and cobalt glaze
Stoneware, wood fired
9.75 x 5.75 x 5.75"
BO124

BEN OWEN III

Artist Statement

I remember, from my early years in clay, my grandfather's frequent advice to "keep it simple, Son. Keep it simple."

How can something that sounds so easy on its face prove to be such an incessant and monumental daily challenge? I constantly strive to advance my repertoire of shapes, colors, effects, and expressions while simultaneously honoring my grandfather's voice, which was drawn from his forefathers' experiences in clay. Hailing from a deep-rooted pottery tradition but being the family's first university-educated clay artist, I am challenged to balance tradition and vision and find my own unique voice in the chorus of fine performances. I endeavor to create truly new works of art in clay that are clearly "Ben Owen III", while paying homage to the time-honored Owen aesthetic.

Some of my works appear in traditional Owen shapes, rendered in a new, grand scale, and modeling colors and finishes of which my forefathers never dreamed. I am intrigued by the exploration of matrix and cohesion relating to glass and pigments. The resulting new glazes launch the historic aesthetic to a new dimension. I often take the risk of testing a new glaze recipe in a variety of firing cycles: wood, gas, and electric. The discoveries that follow often lead to the next big question along my journey, as I seek to take my discovery to the next level. I move slowly and methodically along my path, often stopping to evaluate my adherence to my grandfather's guiding principle of simplicity.

My current work carries several echoes: the deep history of Asian cultures which have been consciously studied by Owen potters for three generations, and the stories of England and early America (my forefathers made the settlers' simple necessities like whiskey jugs, candlesticks, butter churns, and canisters). I attempt to breathe new life into these simple earthen vessels, infusing them with artistic vision that makes them comfortable at the world's finest locations, yet friendly enough to be daily companions.

— BEN OWEN III, 2017



PHOTO BY JERRY WOLFORD



Egg vase, Chinese blue and red glaze
Porcelain
12.75 x 6.75 x 6.75"
BO107

BEN OWEN III

Biography



Dogwood vase, white glaze
 Red stoneware
 20 x 11 x 11"
 BO91

Ben Owen III (b. 1968) is an American studio potter working in Seagrove, North Carolina. Born into a traditional pottery family, he was first introduced to clay by his grandfather when he was eight years old. Ben's natural talent and unusual level of interest led to an apprenticeship with his grandfather and father at age 13. Through high school, he carefully studied the shapes, glazes, and traditions of the Owen aesthetic and learned to appreciate the history and legacy of generations of craft.

During college, Ben's interest in form, design, and color piqued and he began to forge his own unique path in clay. Through technical exploration and academic influences, Ben's clay vernacular began to evolve. Travels in the United States attending workshops and conferences continued to create a unique identity from culture and nature."

Ben's recent passions have included glaze creation and experimentation. "For some pots, I use a four-chambered wood kiln with a firing process of up to four days. The prolonged exposure to ash and heat develops a wide range of color and texture on the clay. Other glaze techniques have evolved in a gas or electric kiln with a precision in temperature control to manipulate the finish. Some pieces are re-fired to develop layers and depth on the finish."

Works created by Owen are included in numerous museum collections including: the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC, The International Folk Art Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, The Schein-Joseph International Museum of Art in Alfred, New York, and The Mint Museum of Craft and Design in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Over the past two decades, Ben has worked with designers and collectors to create custom pottery to be installed in a series of premier hotels and public spaces including the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Tokyo, Japan, Umstead Hotel and Spa in Cary, North Carolina; the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts, and Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. Many of these vessels are large in scale and carefully designed to enhance the magnificent and unique interior of each location.

Owen has received many awards and honors, including recognition as a North Carolina Living Treasure in 2004 and induction into the North Caroliniana Society. He has been a member of the American Craft Council since 1993.

PUCKER

ESTABLISHED 1967 BOSTON

GALLERY

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Pucker Gallery is a member of the Boston Art Dealers Association and the New England Appraisers Association.

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BEN OWEN III

Tradition & Vision

DATES:

3 February through 4 March 2018

OPENING RECEPTION:

3 February 2018, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

The public is invited to attend. The artist will be present.



Flair bowl, gray glaze
Porcelain
4 x 18.5 x 18.5"
BO84



Flair bowl, Chinese red glaze
Earthenware
5 x 23.5 x 23.5"
BO93

Please visit www.puckergallery.com to view current and past exhibition catalogues and subscribe to the *Pot of the Week* e-mail lists.