

Jim Robison Ceramics

Born and educated in the Midwest USA. (Missouri, Iowa and Michigan) Jim has been teaching and making professionally since 1965. Invited to Yorkshire in 1972, what was intended as a one year working visit has been extended somewhat. Jim married Elizabeth in 1973 and they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Finding an old farm cottage with outbuildings near Holmfirth, the Booth House Gallery and Pottery was established in 1975.

He also took up a teaching post at the Leeds University Arts College at Bretton Hall where he assisted Peter Murray in the early days of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and was head of ceramics.

Working in clay, Jim's pieces are usually slab built and decorated with Landscape references influenced by the character of the hills and valleys in the Yorkshire countryside. He enjoys an experimental approach to making both functional and sculptural work. Slabs may be literally thrown against stone walls recording details that remain evident in the final work. Thus literally creating both a visual and tactile record of 'Place'. In other pieces, coloured slips are used as painting medium, applied with brushes or rollers, often over stencils and fabric textures.

Multiple layers of these decorated slabs may be pieced together and then put through the slab roller again. Repeated rolling can result in unusual surface textures, torn edges and stretched patterns. Personal construction techniques combine using wooden formers and splints for soft slabs. Jim also



enjoys playing with extruders, making dies, and for details such as rims or feet which are often used to complete the items.

When leather hard or nearly dry, pieces are finished with several layers of stoneware glaze, applied with a spray gun and then raw fired to stoneware temperature. (About 1250 degrees C)

The pieces are high fired stoneware and therefore frost proof and suitable for outdoors; the preferred location for much of his work. Commissions include private and public garden sculptures and murals along with smaller planters and vessels.

An elected Fellow of the British Craft Potters Association, founder member and former Chair of the Northern Potters Association. He has helped with the ICF (International Ceramic Festival) in Aberystwyth as Master of Ceremonies. Jim has written for many Ceramics publications and is author of books on Large Scale Ceramics, and Slab Techniques.

To see more examples of Jim's work:

Face book: Jim Robison Ceramics.

Web site: www.boothhousegallery.co.uk

