



Vernon Owens

A fourth generation potter and son of M L Owens, Vernon grew up working in Dad's shop. At the age of fifteen, he supplemented his income by working for C.C. Cole Pottery in Seagrove. In 1960, John Mare, the new owner of Jugtown Pottery, hired Vernon as the Jugtown thrower. Jugtown was bought by Country Roads, Inc. a nonprofit organization in 1968 and Vernon continued on as the head potter and teacher of the apprentices. In 1983 Country Roads, Inc. moved on to another project and Vernon bought the pottery. He married potter Pam Lorette that same year and continues to make pots at Jugtown Pottery with wife Pam and son Travis.

The main influences in Vernon's pots come from the Moore County, NC pottery tradition, (the utilitarian wares such as jugs, pitchers and churns), and the art pottery era which began around 1917, from which classical vases and bowls from Korea, China and Japan became the inspiration. Vernon received a North Carolina Folk Heritage Award from the NC Arts Council in 1994. In 1996 he received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Vernon received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from North Carolina State University in December of 2000. Vernon's work can be seen in numerous books and collections.