

ASPEN VALLEY

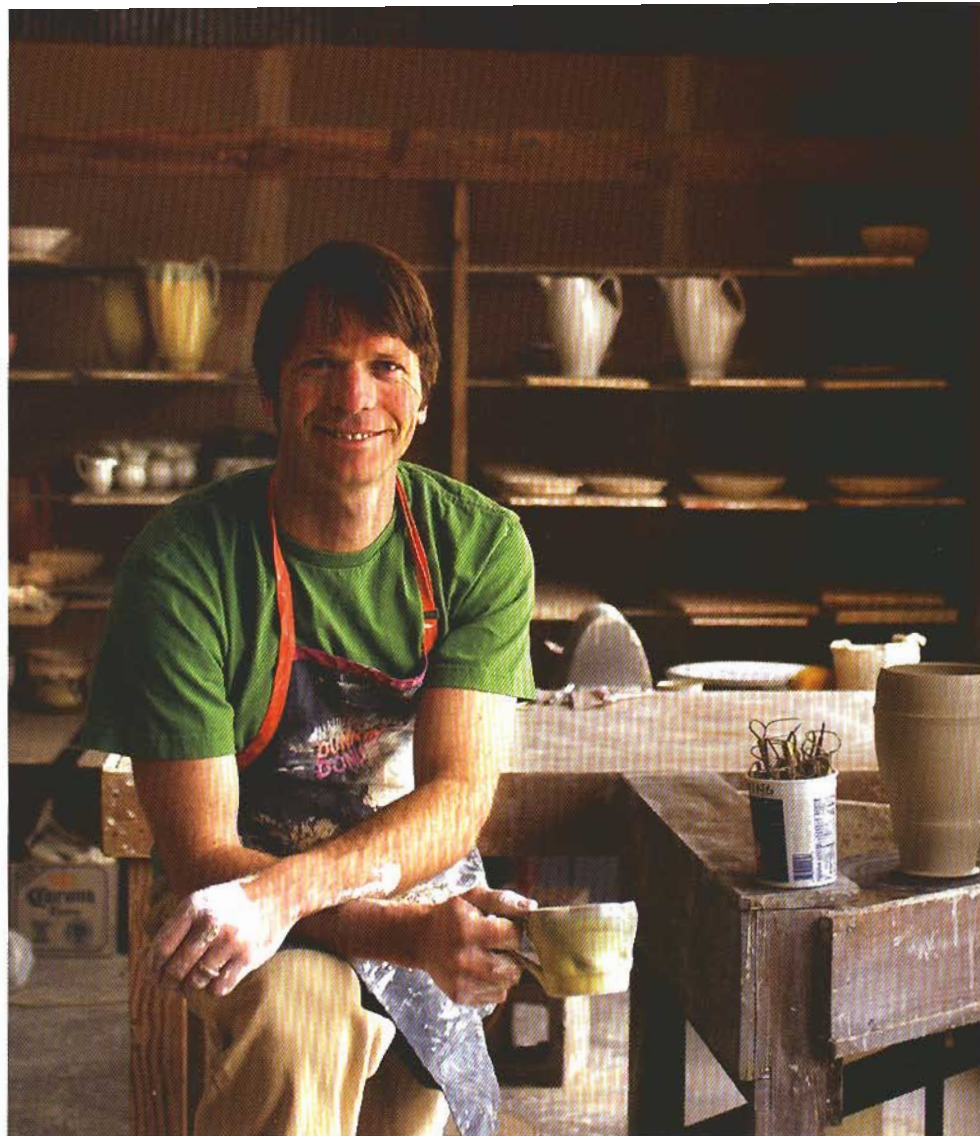
Resort

PROPERTIES

SUMMER 2006

**LIVING AT
WATER'S EDGE**
WORTH THE PREMIUM PRICE

www.resortproperties.cc



Alleghany Meadows, right, turns out functional art layered with meaning from his Carbondale studio.

Michelle Branz

Behind Home Plate

ALLEGHANY MEADOWS'S FUNCTIONAL CERAMICS CELEBRATE RITUAL AND PLACE

BY ALLISON JOHNSON

Ceramics may not be the first material that comes to mind when embarking on an interior design project, but studio potter Alleghany Meadows's artwork interacts with ritual, space, and time in the same way a custom-designed home does. The Carbondale-based Meadows focuses on dishware, using porcelain clay because of its responsive, vitreous qualities. He works with local interior designers to make full place settings and utilitarian art that he considers more physical than decorative, and also creates custom bathroom sinks that sit partially or fully above a vanity.

"Meadows's art works great in both contemporary and traditional settings," says Robyn Scott, an interior designer in Basalt. "You can use his dishes for eating but also display them on a mantel."

When not in use, one series of dishes that Meadows produces nest sideways in a large stoneware bowl, creating a graceful sculpture similar to a curved seashell. Even his place settings transcend their more practical nature by assuming the form of a delicate, blooming flower when layered together.

Steve Berger, manager of Basalt's Decorative Materials, a luxury design showroom, calls the sinks one-of-a-kind art pieces. "There are very few people who can hand-throw a sink," he says. "It's the kind of item that when people see it, they'll design an entire bathroom around it."

Sinks can take two to four months to make, and in designing them Meadows considers such elements as the room's lighting and whether clients envision a

reflective surface or one that absorbs light. Either way, clients end up with unique, functional art that's layered with meaning.

"When there's a sense of the handmade, people often will let down their guard and relate on a tactile level," he says. "A different reaction is evoked by a cup and saucer than by a coffee cup. The cup and saucer heighten the sense of ritual. I try to create a moment where people become aware of their surroundings."


His work often employs the patterns found in nature, although Meadows is quick to point out that he's not interested in copying them but rather evoking the natural world's emotions and rhythms. Having grown up in seaside Mendocino, California, Meadows draws some of his inspiration from the ocean. He once fashioned 3,000 textured, celadon tiles to make an entire bathroom feel as if it were flowing with water.

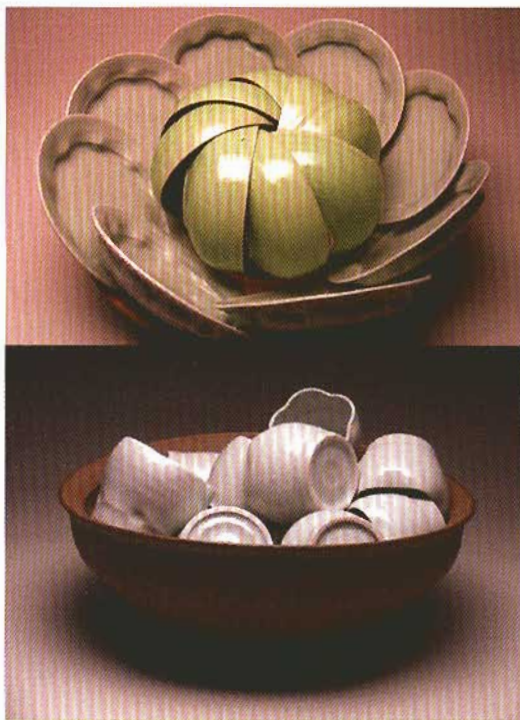
The mountains also inform his work. "The thickness of a cornice of snow on a ridge can be translated into a thickness of glaze," he explains. "There's a depth to a glaze that's fascinating, like looking into a deep pool."

In addition to studio time, Meadows runs the Harvey/Meadows Gallery at the base of Aspen Highlands with fellow ceramicist Sam Harvey and, along with about 20 other artists, displays his work in a vintage 30-foot-long Airstream trailer that he has retrofitted into a nomadic gallery. Called Artstream,

"When there's a sense of the handmade, people often will let down their guard and relate on a tactile level." —Alleghany Meadows

the mobile exhibit has traveled the country, with stops at such esteemed institutions as New York's Museum of Arts and Design.

"Time and memory are attached to things of meaning," Meadows concludes. "When we live with something of quality and beauty that's made by hand, memory can be connected to the sensuous experience we have with a material object. Our own experiences then become another patina on the work." 



Photos Courtesy Alleghany Meadows

Alleghany Meadows's work ranges in price from \$200 per place setting to \$1,600 for a custom sink. For more information, contact Meadows at 970-704-9901 or go to www.artstream.com. The Harvey/Meadows Gallery, open year-round, is located in the pedestrian plaza at the base of the Aspen Highlands ski area. 970-920-7721, www.harveymeadows.com



Jason Young/Esterico courtesy Robyn Scott Interiors