

RIVERARTS

New porcelain and ceramics in the River Arts District

BY GLENN GARSON

A wide range of original ceramics from functional dinnerware to decorative sculpture is available in the District.

You can order gossamer thin, hand-made one-of-a-kind porcelain as well as durable, beautifully glazed and carefully designed ceramic dinnerware for your home while you meet and talk with the artists.

There are a wide variety of ceramic artists and studios in the district. Eleven members of the River District Artist group are ceramic artists (riverdistrict-artists.com). The Odyssey Center for the Ceramic Arts (highwaterclays.com) has ceramic art classes, a kid's summer clay camp and ceramic studios for rent. A number of ceramics studios produce commission and wholesale pieces, however only two advertise regular retail hours outside of Friday afternoons: Potter's



Ceramic bisque ware at the Odyssey Studios

Mark and Craven Hand built Porcelain, who both opened their working studios in the River Arts District about three years ago.

Potter's Mark has a wide range of beautiful glazes and forms; they specialize in the highly elusive Copper Red Glazes that require exceptional kiln control. Their working studio and showroom is open six days a week. www.PottersMark.com, or call (828) 252-9122. Marty and Eileen Black produce

exquisitely designed dinnerware, bridal registry and pottery.

After 25 years in Spain and France the Cravens brought their "Art for your table" to the District. Together they pioneered lace-impressed porcelain, which attracts collectors to its refined elegance. Jo Lydia impresses the porcelain with lace that is two and three hundred years old, and Ian creates the complex glazes that are one of the hallmarks of their pieces. Their fine dinnerware, vases and bowls are only available in their gallery-studio. www.CravenStudio.com, or call (800) 764-2402).

You don't have to go any further than the River Arts District to find a wide range of ceramic artists who have come from all over the globe and brought their wide range of glazes, forms and experience.