

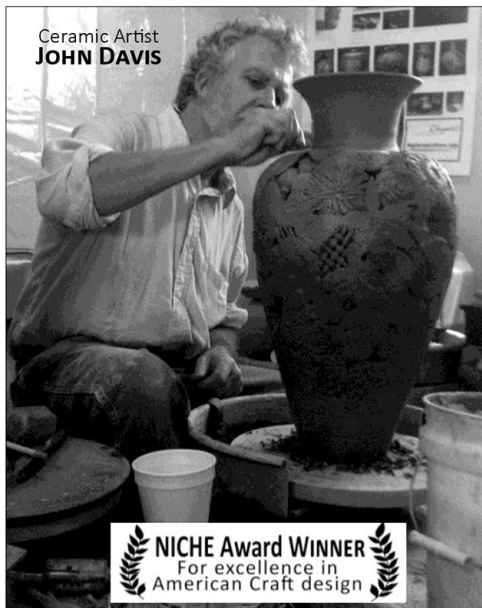


NEW AGE RETAILER MAGAZINE
Narcissus Award Finalist
BEST IN BODY, MIND & SPIRIT



J. DAVIS
STUDIO

CERAMIC ART MADE IN



Ceramic Artist
JOHN DAVIS

NICHE Award WINNER
For excellence in
American Craft design



Part meditation, part history, part science, Raku is a pottery firing process developed by a nonconforming 16th century tea master determined to create tea bowls as humble as the then avant-garde Japanese Tea Ceremony.

Chanoyu, the way of tea, is meditative and spiritual, calling for tranquil mindful movements and for a presence of great wisdom, harmony, empathy, and compassion.

The innovative tea master, a disciple of wabi-sabi, a Zen philosophy that appreciates the beauty in imperfection, dared to challenge the ostentatious ornamented porcelain perfection idolized at the time.

Collaborating with a local tile maker, the tea master desired tea bowls made in a ceremony of graceful purity and austere simplicity. Pulled red hot from the kiln to cool rapidly, tea masters prized handmade and irregularly shaped bowls with uneven glaze, cracks, and a rebellious beauty of deliberate imperfection.

Noted American ceramic artist, Paul Soldner, pushed the chemical reaction even further by establishing a new method of Raku.

Drenched with a glaze that oxidizes like normal during the kiln firing, he then turned the surface into a kaleidoscope of shimmering metallic colors with a post firing reduction.

When the kiln reaches approximately 1800°F, and the glaze is molten, glossy, and smooth, the fiery pottery is pulled from the kiln, and sealed inside a metal container that has been filled with combustibles which bursts immediately into fire.

Dwindling air causes the flames to thrash wildly inside the container and around the pottery burning up the oxygen as well as pulling it from the glaze. This causes a spectacular combustion reaction.

The reductive atmosphere leaves behind a lustrous glaze with asymmetrical and iridescent colorings. Unpredictable swirls of magenta, violet, blue, teal, green, and ochre mingle with gossamer smoky copper and pearlescent gold.

When the can has cooled, the lid is popped open and sprayed with a burst of water to quickly freeze the organic and ethereal results.

J. DAVIS STUDIO
RAKU
ORNAMENTS
AND POTTERY
JOYFULLY IMPERFECT