

# Seagrove Pottery: The Next Generation

In Seagrove, the birthplace of North Carolina pottery, new artists are expanding the tradition. They're building on an 18th-century heritage and bringing contemporary flair to this iconic Southern art form. **BY ANNETTE THOMPSON**



"Each pot is a model for the next."  
~ Ben Owen III



Ben's works, with Asian and family ties, start at \$185

## **BEN OWEN III**

**Roots:** Learned functional and decorative pottery from his grandfather and father

**Influences:** Ben absorbed his grandfather's style of using intense color and unconventional lines on traditional shapes. He also studied pottery-making in Japan, China, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

**Signature works:** Candlesticks made from a single piece of clay and teapots with multilayered glazes

**Gallery:** The light-filled showroom and open studio featuring Ben's work connects to his grandfather's original shop—now a museum showcasing the Owen family's pottery.

**Ben says:** "I sometimes demonstrate pottery-making to give the public a better understanding of what chapters precede the finished product, to illustrate the origins of form and design."

BEN OWEN POTTERY: 2199 State 705; [benowenpottery.com](http://benowenpottery.com) or 336-879-2262 (TURN THE PAGE)

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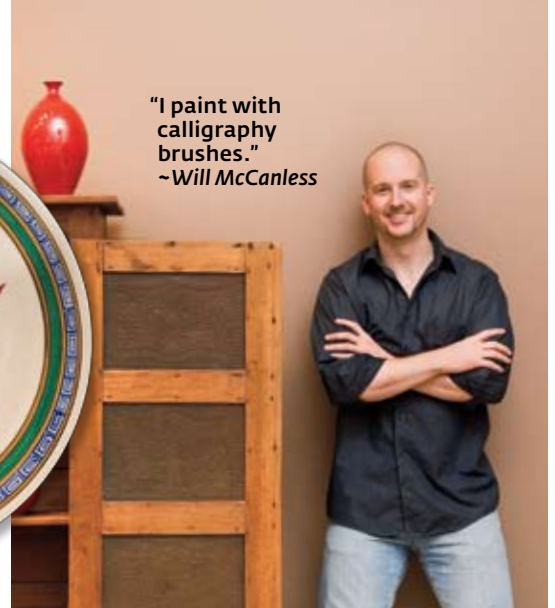
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## ★ Travel



Platter by  
Will, \$295

"I paint with  
calligraphy  
brushes."  
~Will McCanless



### WILL McCANLESS

**Roots:** A second-generation Seagrove potter, Will learned decorative styles in his parents' shop, Dover Pottery.

**Influences:** His parents' work, plus trips to pottery capitals in Europe and Asia  
**Signature works:** Intricate hand-painted platters, crystalline plates and vases, and Seagrove Red vases (Seagrove Red is a traditional glaze used in the area.)

**Gallery:** Modern wood and stone studio/showroom for Will and other artists

**Will says:** "I picked up pottery at a young age. It became a part of me. It is very organized, structured, and precise, but it's also second nature."

McCANLESS POTTERY: 634 State 705; [mccanlesspottery.com](http://mccanlesspottery.com) or 336-878-3610



"I'm drawn to  
modern design  
and shapes."  
~Stephanie Martin



Stephanie's  
bowl, \$85

### STEPHANIE MARTIN

**Roots:** A first-generation potter with a design degree, she fell in love with Seagrove in 1998.

**Influences:** Blocks of color from 20th-century artists such as Rothko

**Signature works:** Slab-built tableware, wall sculptures, and vases

**Gallery:** A rustic frame showroom off a narrow country road; shared with potter and husband Jeff Dean

**Stephanie says:** "I like hand building and coiling. It's very organic. I make forms and patterns just like sewing and darning." \*

DEAN & MARTIN POTTERY: 7739  
Nathan Lane; [deanandmartinpottery.com](http://deanandmartinpottery.com) or 336-879-0683

### Best Time To See Seagrove

The Celebration of Seagrove Potters, November 21-22, offers a show of area artists in the old Luck's Cannery. Get a map at any gallery or print one from [www.discoverseagrove.com](http://www.discoverseagrove.com) for more than 100 galleries or studios to visit.