

Horsehair Pottery

Commissioned especially for you by David Coney
in appreciation of your service to Space Center Rotary 2010-11

Horsehair pots are thrown on the potter's wheel with handmade clay. They are then fired to bisque. The insides and rims are glazed and then fired again to approximately 1600 degrees in a raku kiln. At this point, they are taken from the fire with tongs and individual horse hairs are applied to each pot. The protein in the hair is carbonized on the pot causing the designs to form. Some pots are left white and others are sprayed with ferric acid to add brown and yellow tints. After the pot has cooled, it is polished with wax to protect the piece and give it a soft sheen. Raku pieces are not food safe. Although they are glazed inside, the pot is still porous. If you are using water in the piece for flowers, it is best to use a plastic cup or liner inside the pot.