



**ASPARAGUS VALLEY POTTERY TRAIL
19th ANNUAL STUDIO TOUR & SALE
April 28 Online opening, April 29 & 30, In-person**

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www.asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com

Annual Springtime Pottery Tour

WESTERN MA – The Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail is hosting their 19th annual studio tour both as an online sale and an in-person event. For pottery fans near and far that prefer to shop from home, they will launch an online opening Friday, April 28 at Noon ET via their website www.apotterytrail.com. Tour the “Asparagus Valley” in-person April 29 & 30, from 10-5, to explore the studio tour while also taking in the rich cultural life, scenic drives, and culinary delights that western Massachusetts has to offer.

The Trail, named for a fertile stretch of the Connecticut River valley and its world-famous crop, welcomes visitors and clay enthusiasts from throughout New England and across the country in late April to visit the creative spaces of the area’s close-knit community of potters. Pottery will be available for sale in a wide range of wheel-thrown and hand-built ceramics for tabletop, home, and garden. Visitors will also have the opportunity to talk with the artists about their work, techniques and sources of inspiration. This year will include 27 potters at 8 studio locations with guest artists joining us from Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Florida, Maine, Connecticut, and New York.

The Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail launched an Early Career Fellowship for BIPOC Ceramic Artists last year. After receiving applications from across the country they have awarded two fellowships. Gleidyamar Rivera (Wethersfield, CT) and Amy Sanders (St. Petersburg, FL) were chosen to be guest artists for this year’s tour. “We look forward to sharing our vibrant pottery community with them,” said potter Tiffany Hilton, who has been one of the hosts for eighteen years.

“Beautiful, functional objects and a connection to those who make them are what the Pottery Trail is all about,” said Hilton. “The pandemic has heightened our need for human connection, as well as our appreciation for the objects we choose to live with in our homes.”

The self-guided Pottery Trail winds along scenic rivers and through the historic villages and college towns of Western Massachusetts. Look for distinctive yellow Trail signs guiding visitors to studios clustered in three areas: Florence/Northampton/Hadley, Greenfield, and the Mohawk Trail village of Shelburne Falls. Visit <https://asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com/map/> for directions and details.

Pick up a Pottery Trail Passport at your first location. Those who have their Trail Passport stamped at all 8 studios will be entered to win a mug or cup. Twenty-seven prizes will be awarded.

The 2023 Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail is sponsored in part by Northeast Solar, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, The Handle Factory, Hope & Olive, and Familiars Coffee. Grey Matter Books is sponsoring a book signing for Contemporary Black American Ceramic Artists, by Donald A. Clark and Chotsani Elaine Dean. Donald Clark will be signing copies of their new book at the studio of Donna McGee on Saturday from 10-5.

Potters on the 2023 Tour:

Donna McGee, Hadley www.donnamcgee.com Donna continues to make pots and tiles and savors each item, moving forward with new materials, surface treatment, and themes. Her drawings of fields, flowers, and faces are a signature of her work. **Guests: Sam Taylor**, Westhampton, MA and

Tiffany Hilton, Florence www.tiffanyhilton.com Tiffany specializes in dinnerware and uses wax resist for simple but bold surface decoration and brushwork in both oxidation and reduction firings. **Guests: Ben Krupka**, Great Barrington, MA and **Ruchika Madan**, Somerville, MA

James Guggina, Florence www.coolpots.com James makes porcelain and stoneware dinnerware complimented with intricate patterns. He uses multiple firing methods to explore the many surfaces and glaze results he desires. **Guests: Gabrielle Schaffner**, Boston, MA, **Cara Taylor**, Easthampton, MA, **Jenny Pope**, Ithaca, NY, and **Amy Sanders**, St. Petersburg, FL

Steve Théberge, Florence www.stevetheberge.com Working with stoneware and a few slips and glazes, Steve's work is intended for daily use on the table or altar. He explores reduction cooling in his gas fired kiln to achieve rich surfaces with minimal elements such as iron and ash. **Guests: Melissa Weiss**, Asheville, NC, **Michelle Im**, Queens, NY, and **Gleidymar Rivera**, Wethersfield, CT

Lucy Fagella, Greenfield <https://lucyfagella.com> Lucy shows her love of food and gardening in her pottery for the kitchen and table. She also produces a distinctive line of funerary ware, including biodegradable urns. A deep exploration into various glaze techniques has resulted in new surfaces and patterns that she is excited to share with you. **Guests: Paula Shalan**, Stockbridge, MA, and **Stuart Gair**, Athens, OH

Molly Cantor, Shelburne Falls www.mollycantor.com Molly's functional pottery features block-print-like carved designs inspired by an ever-evolving array of regional plants, animals, and stories. Molly is hosting at her home studio. **Guests: Laurel MacDuffie**, Parsonsfield, ME, **Evelyn Ward**, Hurdle Mills, NC, and **Ben Eberle**, Conway, MA

Mary Barringer, Shelburne Falls www.marybarringer.com Mary makes hand-built pottery and sculpture with distinctive textured surfaces reminiscent of stones or ancient implements. She will be showing functional platters, bowls, and cups, as well as sculpture for the wall and garden. **Guests: David Swenson**, Clearwater, MN, and **Hayne Bayless**, Ivoryton, CT

Stephen Earp, Shelburne Falls www.stevenearp.com. Steve finds inspiration in historical styles such as traditional New England redware and early blue and white delftware. He is the recent recipient of the Massachusetts Cultural Council 2022 Traditional Arts Fellowship Award. **Guest: Maya Machin**, Ashfield, MA

For additional information please contact:
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