

PRESS RELEASE

**ASPARAGUS VALLEY POTTERY TRAIL
20th ANNUAL STUDIO TOUR & SALE
April 27 & 28, 2024**



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www.asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com

20th Annual Springtime Pottery Tour

WESTERN MA – The Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail is celebrating their 20th annual studio tour April 27 and 28. Tour the “Asparagus Valley” in-person from 10-5 both days, visiting 29 ceramic artists at 8 studio locations, 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 29 potters with guest artists joining us from Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Ohio, Illinois, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont.

The Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail launched an annual Early Career Fellowship for BIPOC Ceramic Artists in 2022. After receiving applications from across the country we have awarded two fellowships. Jessica Ayala (Brooklyn, NY) and Joshua Wong (Yellow Springs, OH) were chosen to be guest artists for the 2024 tour. “We’re excited to share our vibrant pottery community with them,” said potter Tiffany Hilton, who has been one of the hosts for nineteen years.

“Beautiful, functional objects and a connection to those who make them are what the Pottery Trail is all about,” said Hilton. “The pandemic 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-nine prizes will be awarded. Consider making a weekend getaway for the “Trail” and leisurely visit all eight stops over two days.

The 2024 Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail is sponsored in part by Northeast Solar, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, The Mill at Shelburne Falls, Familiars Coffee, Florence Pie Bar, The Handle Factory, and Hope & Olive.

Potters on the 2024 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 **Tom White**, Northfield, MA

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: Cara Taylor**, Easthampton, MA and **Kaleidoscope Pottery**, Easthampton, 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, **Nancy Gardner**, Chicago, IL, **Steve Procter**, Brattleboro, VT, and **Lisa Orr**, Northborough, MA

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: Bill Jones**, Madison County, NC, and **Jason Hartsoe**, Celo, NC

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: Lindsay Rogers**, Johnson City, TN, and **Dallas Wooten**, Hackettstown, NJ

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 The Handle Factory. **Guests: Taylor Sijan**, Hackettstown, NJ, 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. **Guests: David Swenson**, Clearwater, MN, **Hayne Bayless**, Ivoryton, CT, and **Clarice Allgood**, Minneapolis, MN

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. **Guest: Sue Skinner** and **Joe Jostes**, Salesville, AR

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