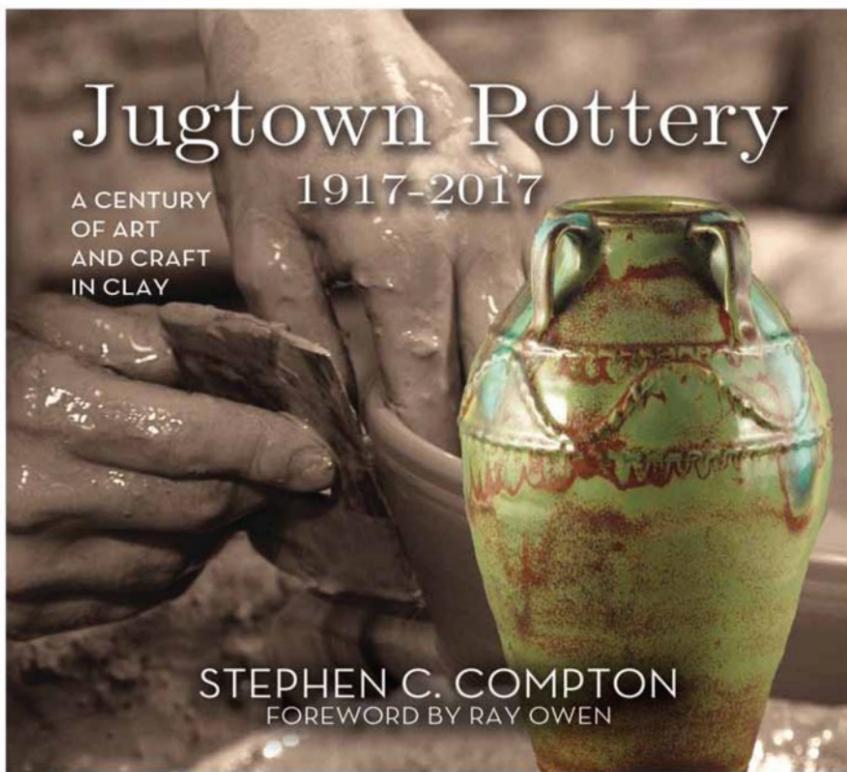


# Jugtown Pottery in Seagrove, NC, Celebrates One Hundred Years with New Book - Apr. 22, 2017



Join us at Jugtown on this exciting day as we kick off the Centennial Celebration of the creation of Jugtown Pottery. The book release party for *Jugtown Pottery: 1917 - 2017 A Century of Art and Craft in Clay*, written by Stephen C. Compton and published by John F Blair, Publisher, will be a highlight of the day. Compton's careful and thorough research has brought one hundred years of Jugtown to life, beginning with Jacques and Juliana Busbee's founding of the pottery to the current owners, Vernon Owens and his family. The artistic vision of the Busbees, and the skills of many artisans in Moore County and beyond, synchronistically created a place where you step out of time for a moment and take note of just what is before you. The event is from 8:30am-5pm.

The shop opens at 8:30am with new pieces from the wood and gas kilns, including some commemorative pitchers and jugs celebrating one hundred years. Jugtown is and always has been a working pottery and American craft shop. In addition to pottery, there are fine crafts from many artisans. There will be demonstrations, a book reading, a question and answer session with Steve Compton and the Owens family, a book signing, live music by local performer Momma Molasses, and food vendors. Buggytown Coffee, our favorite Moore County coffee shop, will be here with a wonderful variety of coffees, teas and goodies.



Salt glaze pots from Jugtown Pottery

In 1917, Raleigh, NC, artists Jacques and Juliana Busbee were deep into North Carolina pottery. The artistic vision of the Busbees, and the skills of Moore County potters created Jugtown Pottery. Over the next hundred years their vision has flourished with guidance from a few dedicated artisans; many from the Owens family.

In April of 2017, a new book will be released: *Jugtown Pottery: 1917 - 2017 A Century of Art and Craft in Clay*, written by Stephen C. Compton and published by John F Blair, Publisher.

Stephen C. Compton, a long time friend of Jugtown Pottery, is a North Carolina native from Alamance County. He has a BA in Anthropology, a Masters degree and a Doctorate in Ministry, and is a NC pottery collector, writer, scholar and lecturer. With three NC Pottery books already published, Compton is a well seasoned writer in the field of pottery. In his new book, Compton jumps right into the



Jugtown Pottery works from 2017

story.

"Jugtown Pottery's story begins with two intrepid city-bred artists - one a painter, the other a photographer and illustrator, neither famously successful - with a bright orange pie dish, with a vision influenced by a waning Arts and Crafts movement, and with rural artisans reluctantly enrolled to give shape to a dream. It is an incredible story fraught with challenges but fruitful because of an almost mystical distinction given to it, and the tireless promotion of it, by its founders, Jacques and Juliana Busbee," says Compton.

He skillfully tells the story of Jugtown's evolution, including all of the eras and workers. "A century of Jugtown pottery making that began with a potter named Owen ends in 2017 with a family of potters named Owens - the same family, including J. H. Owen's grandson, granddaughter-in-law, and two great-grandchildren. So much about the world has changed. And likewise, Jugtown Pottery has experienced challenges and seen changes. No one can reliably predict what another century may bring - to the world or to Jugtown Pottery - except the certainty that more challenges and changes will come. But so long as a relic of the Busbees' vision remains in place to give shape to Jugtown Pottery's future, and so long as new generations of consumers fall in love with its products, a promising time seems likely."

Meet the Jugtown family:



Pam and Vernon Owens

Vernon Owens grew up working in Dad's shop, absorbing shapes from his father, M.L. Owens and his uncle Walter Owen, who worked at North State Pottery in Sanford, NC. In the late 1950's, at the age of fifteen, he went to work also for C.C. Cole making as many as 200 small pieces a day. The economy was in hard times and a good product that sold was something to be proud of. While Vernon

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worked hard to make good pots, he did not think of himself as an artist.

In 1960, John Mare, the new owner of Jugtown Pottery, hired Vernon as the Jugtown thrower. Here, Vernon was encouraged to hone the skills he had developed as a youngster. At first he dutifully copied the forms of early Jugtown pieces but that became a frustration and he began to let the old pots be an inspiration to develop his own forms. After Mare's sudden death in 1962, Owens leased the pottery and kept it going until 1968 when it was sold to Country Roads, Inc.

Vernon continued at Jugtown Pottery through the ownership of Country Roads, Inc., a nonprofit corporation whose mission was the preservation of hand crafts. In 1983 Country Roads, Inc. moved on to another project and Vernon bought the pottery. He married potter Pam Lorette that same year. While Vernon sells the majority of his pots at Jugtown, they can occasionally be seen at gallery shows and in museums. The main influences in Vernon's pots come from the Moore County, NC, pottery tradition, (the utilitarian wares such as jugs, pitchers and churns made in the 18 and 19th centuries), and the art pottery era which began around 1917, from which classical vases and bowls from Korea, China and Japan became the inspiration. Vernon received a North Carolina Folk Heritage Award from the NC Arts Council in 1994. In 1996, he received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Vernon received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from North Carolina State University in December of 2000.

A love of traditional pottery and a potter named Daniel Goodale from her mother's lineage, initiated Pam Owens' pottery career. Her first pottery teacher Isobel Karl, an Alfred College graduate, strongly influenced Pam's decision to study pottery by apprenticeship. Jugtown Pottery was her first working pottery experience. There she learned throwing skills through practice and watching Vernon Owens, a very skilled potter at work. Returning to New Hampshire to attend UNH, Pam worked at three potteries, and returned to Jugtown in 1980. In 1983 she and Vernon were married and have worked together since.

Pam states, "How I landed at Jugtown and this wonderful state that so appreciates clay, still mystifies me, but I am honored to be part of the tradition and do my best to keep it alive, evolving and yet connected to its history. The forms at Jugtown are always subtly changing. We work from the tradition but are not strictly bound by it."



View inside Jugtown Pottery kiln

Born in 1985, son of Vernon and Pam Owens, Travis Owens began making pots at age 2. He is known for making traditional wares like those of his great grandparents, J.H. and Martha Scott Owen as well as early Jugtown translation shapes. Travis has a Bachelor of Art and Design from the College of Art and Design at NCSU. He is a full time Jugtown Potter.

Born in 1990, daughter of Vernon and Pam, Bayle Owens began making pots at age 2. She demonstrated at the Novella Festival through the Mint Museum in the late 1990's and appeared in an article in *Kids Guideposts* in 1995. She can be seen on the *Craft in America* series, in the Origins, Jugtown episode.

Bayle studied art at Warren Wilson College

## Visit Carolina Bronze Sculpture Garden, in Seagrove, NC - Apr. 22 & 23, 2017

The Carolina Bronze Sculpture Garden, located at 6108 Maple Springs Road, Seagrove, NC, 27341, is hosting an Open House on Apr. 22, 2017, from 10am until 4pm and on Apr. 23, 2017, from 12:30pm until 4pm. The Open House will be in conjunction with the 9th Annual Seagrove Celebration of Spring Kiln Openings and Studio Tours. The Sculpture Garden will be open for walking tours with an audio tour available to describe the sculpture



Work by Jennie Keatts of JLK Jewelry at Jugtown from 2008-2009. Following her heart, she studied fiber art at Haywood Community College 2010-2012. She joined her family at Jugtown and makes functional pieces and is known for her pumpkins, clay animals, and sheep felted with fleeces.

Born in 1939, Bobby Owens is the son of M.L. Owens. He grew up loading kilns and cutting wood for firing kilns for his father. He was hired by John Mare in 1960 to glaze, load and fire kilns at Jugtown Pottery. His love of



Works from Jugtown Pottery



Work by Vernon Owens

the process of clay and glazes kept him busy at Jugtown. He continues to work mixing clay and glazing and firing the cone 6 gas kiln. He is an integral part of the process at Jugtown. Bobby lives nearby in Robbins with his wife Emily. They have one daughter, Amy.

Other faces at Jugtown:

Ikuko Hussey, "Sukoshi" has worked at Jugtown since 1988. She keeps Jugtown organized great efficiency and welcomes visitors in the sales cabin.

Jennie Keatts of JLK Jewelry is the sister of Pam Owens and a skill jeweler. There is a case of her wonderful jewelry available for sale in the Jugtown shop. Many of the pottery stones in her pieces are fired at Jugtown.

Jugtown Pottery is located at 330 Jugtown Road in Seagrove, NC, 27341.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the Pottery at 910/464-3266, e-mail to (jugtown@mindspring.com), or visit (www.jugtownware.com).

and plants. The Carolina Bronze Foundry will be open for guided tours on the hour. Refreshments will be available.

The Carolina Bronze Sculpture Garden is a natural and landscaped area overlooking a beautiful 1.25 acre pond. A walking trail loops around the pond with benches and a picnic area along the trail. The Sculpture Garden collection consists of donated and loaned sculptures from

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