

Studio Crafts Movement Reborn | Focus on Ceramics

In the heyday of the 1960s and 1970s, the Studio Crafts Movement in the United States started as a reaction against mass produced products that became so prevalent in the 1950s and as a desire to return to nature and individual expression. During this period, art and craft seemed to meld together so that it was unclear where art began and craft ended. The history goes back thousands of years to the ancient world where potters together with weavers were the first manufacturers. For ceramics, the story really begins with the invention of the wheel. It is unclear where the first potter's wheel was invented but probably somewhere in the Fertile Crescent, the cradle of civilization near the Tigris & Euphrates River basin within the area of modern-day Iraq. By the end of the Third Millennium BC, the area's influence had spread across the Mediterranean Sea to Egypt and Crete where you will find museums filled with ancient pottery today.

A rebirth of hand-made pottery is evident in many spots around the world still. The Currey & Company design team travels extensively to small villages in Asia and elsewhere to seek out distinctive designs made in small ceramic studios. At April High Point Market, the company will debut a diverse selection of hand-made clay objects, vases, and lamp bodies.



Flying Silk Vase



Blarney Table Lamp



Bloom Blue & Ivory Vase

The Flying Silk Blue Vase is made of porcelain in a shape that looks like fabric being blown by the wind. A narrow base supports the seed-pod shape that balloons up and out, and the falling turquoise glaze dripping from its top furthers the feel that this is a true work of art. It is a complex process to achieve such a free-form design in porcelain, which makes this one of our accessories that is a studio- or gallery-worthy piece.

The epitome of artistry, the Blarney Green Table Lamp is made of green hand-thrown porcelain that has been painted with a glaze before it is fired to give the patterning on the surface an organic feel. The fact that each one is created uniquely means there will be differences in the falling of the drips and the saturation of the color in spots. The antique brass finish on the hardware and the linen shade tease out the lighter tones in the lamp's body.

The Bloom Blue & Ivory Vase is made of porcelain with a bold floral pattern on its surface in shades of textured blue, off-white, and gold. The flowers were inspired by the Unikko (poppy) pattern designed by Maija Isola in 1964, which has become a symbol of Finnish design. The reactive bubble glaze technique gives each poppy a painterly appearance, and the center of each glints as it is rendered in a metallic glaze, contrasting the matte textures around them.