

## Michael Wisner

Inspired by ancient Anasazi and Mimbres potsherds, Michael Wisner began making southwestern pottery nearly 20 years ago. He digs local clays from the Elk Mountains near his studio in Woody Creek, Colorado. The clay is filtered to remove rocks and debris and then hand coiled to form each piece. Over the past 16 years Wisner has studied extensively with Potters of the American Indian Pueblos and Mata Ortiz, Mexico. Years of traditional pottery study in Mexico and access to contemporary ceramics have allowed him to merge Old World aesthetics with the new to create a contemporary look. In 1989 he began an apprenticeship with Juan Quezada. His work is now uniquely his own, but the influence of this master ceramist remains deeply within his work. He speaks of his work, "I am fascinated with simple gestural shapes and how pattern evolves as it moves over the pottery surface." Each vessel is individually hand formed and continuous patterns are hand incised from Colorado clays and minerals.

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