

Virginia Pates

Virginia Pates is a contemporary American ceramic artist who creates wheel-thrown and altered forms in a wide variety of clay bodies, often including collected materials from the local environment. Her forms are weighted and re-balanced by inclusions of minerals and fibers, then scalloped and warped before firing with glazes of unexpected combinations of colors and textures.

Pates is a native of Mississippi, and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Mississippi State University and a Master of Fine Arts in Ceramics degree from the University of Wales Institute in Cardiff, UK. She teaches ceramics at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia.

Virginia Pates exhibits her work internationally, and has won multiple awards in her field, including grants from the Andy Warhol Foundation, the Mississippi Arts Commission, and the Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community, as well as residencies in Arizona and Ireland and juried membership in the Artisans Center of Virginia. Most recently, Pates' ceramic glaze recipes were published in John Britt's, *The Complete Guide to Mid-Range Glazes*, and her ceramic work was selected for the 2012 International Academy of Ceramics Exhibition, the 2013 Virginia Clay Invitational, and the 2015 NCECA Biennial. She is currently working from studios in Sperryville and Washington, Virginia, and is represented by the Cross-Mackenzie Gallery in Washington, D.C.