

Interviewees: Paul Eshelman (PE) and Laurel Eshelman (LE)

Interviewer: Meredith McGriff (MM)

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Venue: Eshelman Pottery

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Photo Captions/Details

afc2018030_05121_ph01.jpg

When visitors arrive at Eshelman Pottery, they enter a showroom full of finished pots. The counter to the left is for sales, and the doors at the back of the room lead into the workroom where the pots are made.

afc2018030_05121_ph02.jpg

Finished pots in a variety of coordinating colors are available in the display area of Eshelman Pottery, which is owned and run by Paul and Laurel Eshelman.

afc2018030_05121_ph03.jpg

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afc2018030_05121_ph04.jpg

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afc2018030_05121_ph05.jpg

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afc2018030_05121_ph06.jpg

The sales counter at Eshelman Pottery holds a variety of postcards and other promotional materials for the pottery, along with a sign-up sheet for their mailing list, and some rack cards and publications providing information about the pottery tour and other area attractions.

afc2018030_05121_ph07.jpg

The work space at Eshelman pottery is full of dozens of plaster molds (center, foreground), shelves of unfinished pots (in the background) and shelves of finished pots (to the left).

afc2018030_05121_ph08.jpg

To make the pots, casting slip is poured into plaster molds such as these. A shell of clay hardens to a certain thickness, and then the extra slip is poured out. The pot is then removed, cleaned, and smoothed. On some pieces, handles are cut out or added.

afc2018030_05121_ph09.jpg

This photo shows a finished mug alongside the plaster blank that was used to create its mold. Since the clay shrinks some in the drying and firing process, the finished pot is slightly smaller than the original mold.

afc2018030_05121_ph10.jpg

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afc2018030_05121_ph11.jpg

Shelves of unfinished, drying pots line the studio. After they are dry and their surfaces have been cleaned up, these will be bisque fired before they are glazed and then fired a final time.

afc2018030_05121_ph12.jpg

These pieces have come out of the mold but aren't ready to be bisqued yet; the edges will be smoothed and the mold marks visible on the handles will be fettled off.

afc2018030_05121_ph13.jpg

This piece has come out of the mold but aren't ready to be bisqued yet; the lip needs rounded and the holes that were drilled still need to be smoothed.

afc2018030_05121_ph14.jpg

This room at Eshelman Pottery holds a variety of supplies. Clay and glaze materials are stacked to the left, while packing materials are arranged on the right. The large container hanging from the ceiling holds packing peanuts that can be easily poured from the tip to fill a box.

afc2018030_05121_ph15.jpg

This thick book is The Art Fair Source Book, a large publication that offered rankings of art fairs around the country. Resources such as this one could be purchased by artists to help them decide what shows to apply for and participate in. Nowadays, most of this information can be found online.

afc2018030_05121_ph16.jpg

The photo on the front of this promotional postcard gives an example of how some of the Eshelman Pottery pieces can be used in coordination.

afc2018030_05121_ph17.jpg

The information on the back of this promotional postcard gives information about the pieces shown on the front, and contact information for the pottery.

afc2018030_05121_ph18.jpg

This folding business card helps promote Eshelman Pottery. The front shows a variety of the pots that they make and sell.

afc2018030_05121_ph19.jpg

The back of this business card gives details about Eshelman Pottery, including brief background information about the owners and some details about the pottery that they make and sell.

afc2018030_05121_ph20.jpg

The photo on the front of this square business card shows how an Eshelman Pottery bowl is made to fit comfortably into the user's hands.

afc2018030_05121_ph21.jpg

Paul Eshelman (left) and Laurel Eshelman (right). They are standing in the display area of Eshelman Pottery, which they have owned and run in Elizabeth, Illinois for 30 years.

afc2018030_05121_ph22.jpg

Paul Eshelman (left) and Laurel Eshelman (right). They are standing in the display area of Eshelman Pottery, which they have owned and run in Elizabeth, Illinois for 30 years.