

Wendy Johnston was born in Toronto, Ontario in 1960, where she spent her childhood growing up in the beaches area. Her interest in art began early, and after high school, she remained in Toronto and attended Central Technical Art School for three years. At this time, Wendy had the opportunity to try many forms of artistic media, and became especially interested in drawing, painting and clay. At the end of her education at Central Tech, Wendy decided to pursue the lifestyle and career as a functional potter. In 1983, Wendy spent two years developing her skills in ceramics at Sheridan College School of Crafts and Design in Mississauga, Ontario. In 1985-86, Wendy took a year off to work, and decided also to pursue teaching as a more lucrative career path that was encouraged by the two potters she worked for. She then went to the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax for two years to obtain a B.F.A. degree and major in printmaking, drawing and art education. For one additional year, Wendy went to Concordia University to complete her certification in art education. For several years upon graduation, Wendy taught art to high school students in New Brunswick. During these years, she created many abstracted and interpretative drawings and paintings based on her surrounding landscape. Although she enjoyed many aspects of teaching, Wendy's interest to continue art-making and pottery remained with her and grew.

In 1996, Wendy made the transition from full-time teaching to become a professional potter. She began her business in the basement of her home in Woodstock, New Brunswick, producing a wholesale line of functional pottery. At this time, Wendy produced work under the name "Country Colours Pottery," which was characterized by three angular brushstrokes of colour in predominantly white, yellow, blue and green colours. In 1998, Wendy moved to Hillsborough, New Brunswick, and rented an apartment and a basement of the old and still functioning post office in Hillsborough. The basement became her studio and showroom. In this transition from wholesale to direct retail selling, Wendy was able to integrate her love of painting, drawing, printmaking with clay to create a unique and evolving line of pottery that now draws from colour, line, the landscape and images and text from everyday life to explore the conventions of beauty.

Wendy's progression towards an independent life as a full-time potter and artist moved in leaps and bounds when, in 2006, she moved into a self-designed home and studio a little farther down the road in Hopewell Cape, truly achieving her goal of living the life of a 'potter in the country.'

In the words of an article written by Deborah Carr, "Wendy now feels that she has the groundwork and skills to take her somewhere she has never ventured before. 'I feel like I am in the prime of my life. I can see where I can go. A lot of work still needs to be done, but there is a road now: not a wall, but a road'."

