Artist Bio:

R. Jack McClennen



Ceramic Artist | Educator | Founder of Mingei Travel

R. Jack McClennen is a ceramic artist, educator, and founder of Mingei Travel, whose career spans more than four decades of working with clay, teaching, and exploring the traditions of handmade pottery. His professional work brings together three closely connected pursuits: creating functional ceramics, sharing knowledge through education, and developing international journeys that connect people with artists, cultures, and traditions of pottery making.

Rooted in the Japanese philosophy of Mingei, McClennen believes that beauty is found in useful, honest, handmade objects that enrich everyday life. His functional pottery reflects this philosophy through thoughtful design, craftsmanship, and an appreciation for the individuality of the maker's hand.

Throughout his career, McClennen has taught ceramics at the secondary, college, and community levels. He currently serves as an advanced pottery instructor at the Punta Gorda Visual Arts Center in Florida and as co-president of the Southwest Florida Potters Guild. His teaching emphasizes the relationship between form and function, technical understanding, creative exploration, and the continuing relevance of traditional pottery practices.

As the founder of **Mingei Travel**, McClennen has expanded his commitment to ceramic education beyond the studio and classroom. Mingei Travel creates intimate, small-group international journeys that immerse participants in the world of ceramics through hands-on workshops, visits with working potters, historic pottery centers, traditional firing experiences, and meaningful cultural exchange.

In 2026, he organized and led a ceramic and cultural journey through Cornwall, England, introducing participants to the region's pottery heritage and contemporary makers. Building on that experience, Mingei Travel is developing two additional journeys for 2027, exploring the ceramic traditions of Cornwall and the English Midlands, including collaborations with respected ceramic artists and visits to historic pottery communities.

For McClennen, Mingei Travel is more than an opportunity to visit remarkable places. It is an extension of his belief that ceramics create connections between people, cultures, materials, and generations. By bringing makers together to learn directly from one another, these journeys celebrate the shared language of craftsmanship and the importance of preserving living ceramic traditions.

Whether creating pottery in his studio, guiding students through the making process, or leading travelers into the workshops of ceramic artists abroad, McClennen's work is united by a single philosophy: *art is not simply something to admire, but something to experience, use, and carry into everyday life.*

McClennen Pottery | Mingei Travel www.mcclennenpottery.com

Ceramic and Cultural Journeys Crafted for the Hands of Makers