

Eastbrook Community's Creators

Spotlight on Rich Brown of Pottery 32



The coffee mugs gifted to new tenants at Eastbrook Community are more than just a beautiful receptacle for your essential morning Cup of Joe. Each mug was carefully hand crafted and has a deeply personal story to tell.

Rich Brown is the creator of the mugs and owner of Pottery 32. Inspired by a Youtube video on ceramics, Rich took his first pottery class at age 32. This age of initiation into ceramics became part of the name for his studio, coincidentally.

After his first class, Rich was hooked, ***"I do it everyday. I love it. It beats me everyday."*** For several years he balanced a career as an art teacher with his passion for clay.

Competitive in spirit, his drive early on was to create work that rivaled the professionals at the pottery studio where he took lessons. The studio had a shared shelf where all students' work was placed when it came out of the kiln. Ten years ago, he could not find his work but was just mesmerized by these 3 bowls on the shelf. ***"I was amazed at the colors, the shapes, the everything of these bowls. I picked them up and I realized, they were my bowls!"***

With this realization, he began to work towards becoming a ceramist full time, which he has done now for the past three years. ***"If you are passionate about something, it doesn't have to be pottery, just go for it. You know I'm 45 and I could start something new now. I'm still into pottery so I'm not going to do that, but my advice to everyone is that it's never too late to learn. Getting started is the hardest part, but it is never too early or too late to begin,"*** says Rich.



"I'm a part of their everyday life. I'm at every phone call, every table. It's just a way for me to be a part of people's lives through my art. I literally leave my thumbprint on everything that I do."

His passion for the craft, is evident in each piece he creates - and he remembers every cup, every bowl he has created. One of his favorite aspects of pottery as an art form is that it is functional.

Pottery and community go hand in hand. Food and drink bring people together and his pieces honor that simple yet important act in society.. Rich operates from a philosophy that pottery is ***"communal, community, and family based."*** He always considers the person behind the mug when creating his pieces.

With many steps from the initial stage of throwing the clay to the final firing of the piece, ***"the process of pottery is ridiculously long."*** It often takes over a month to finish one single piece.

With all this time, Rich finds inspiration comes easily, ***"I am just thinking about my business, where it's going, life, family, community. That's it. Life is good. And that's what I try to share***

with everyone. I'm just glad to be living and that's what I put into every piece."

Next time you enjoy your freshly ground coffee in a hand crafted mug from Rich Brown at Eastbrook Community, surely you will be able to feel the passion that he puts into his pottery. We are delighted to showcase Rich's amazing craftsmanship and talent as an artist. While we love brewing fresh roasted coffee at Eastbrook Community, maybe we can get a thirst for life through one of Rich's hand crafted mugs.

Rich's studio is located in Hogansville, GA, an up and coming community, revitalized by the arts 30 minutes from Peachtree City. Stay connected with Rich by visiting his website pottery32.com or on Instagram @pottery32.