

ALDE VALLEY SPRING FESTIVAL 2020

On a Turning Wing : A Celebration of Birds, Flight & Migration

OPEN STUDIOS : MERCURY HARE

CURATORIAL NOTES

In my early twenties I used to work night shifts in the lambing barns at White House Farm. If it was quiet, the hours between 2am and 4am were always hard to get through. It was usually only a few degrees above zero and sometimes freezing; and dark. One of the treats was to make a large mug of sweet tea or coffee with plenty of sugar and a dash of milk; and to then sit with this in an old armchair, dressed in boots, waterproof over-trousers and an extra jersey.

That was before Mercury Hare's beautiful pottery came on to the farm : his exquisite, elegant bowls; his coffee mugs; and, in particular, his tankards. I have a small collection of the latter in the farmhouse - reserved for long winter evenings, early morning walks around the paddocks or for a good gulp of beer. Filled with tea or coffee, they are as good as a bit water bottle !

But more than that, it has been a great pleasure to show Mercury's work in the barns during the Alde Valley Spring Festivals exhibitions and a joy to welcome his work to the online Open Studios. We have separated the studio stock into : coffee mugs; tankards; small bowls; medium bowls; and large bowls. For each, there is a checklist of the number available in various different [beautiful] glazes. More stock will be added over the coming weeks and months.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Many potters use gauges while they are throwing so that they can produce consistent diameters and heights for their work. I am extremely careful in choosing the same weight of clay if I am making several bowls of a similar size but after this the clay takes over. I have an idea of the form that I am trying to make and each time I try and create that form the clay seems to dictate how thin, curvy, high or wide the pot is going to become and the outcomes are varied.

I suppose I am a perfectionist and when I am throwing, I am always trying to get closer to what I imagine the perfect shape should be. I then must take a step back, admit defeat and accept that I haven't done too badly. I worry that I am now making worse pots than I used to but then tell myself that I am just becoming a greater perfectionist.

When I was about twenty-seven, I learnt to make jewellery at the Sir John Cass and I think computer programming, where I am still employed, making jewellery and potting are all activities that require precision and good finishing skills.

I have acquired a new gas kiln. It is very efficient. While slightly larger than my previous kiln, is so well insulated that it is taking two days to cool down as opposed to the twenty-four hour cycle, I managed before. This has slowed me down. It is also taking time to work out the best way to load and fire the kiln to produce the effects that a reduction firing can give. Copper red is the colour that needs greatest reduction and some of my reds in this lot of pots are pleasantly muted.

For all sales & more information : enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk

MERCURY HARE

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HANDMADE CUPS, TANKARDS & BOWLS



TANKARDS ~ £29 each

Green – Spice – Spotty Stoneware : 4 in stock

Yellow – Stoneware : 2 in stock

Blue – Dark – Spotty – Stoneware : 4 in stock

Blue – Pale – Stoneware : 4 in stock

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MERCURY HARE

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HANDMADE MUGS, TANKARDS & BOWLS



COFFEE MUGS ~ £19 each

Green – Spice – Spotty Stoneware : 4 in stock

Yellow – Stoneware : 4 in stock

Blue – Dark – Spotty – Stoneware : 4 in stock

Blue – Pale – Stoneware : 4 in stock

Grey – Pale – Spotty – Stoneware : 6 in stock

Red – Copper – Stoneware : 4 in stock

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MERCURY HARE

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HANDMADE MUGS, TANKARDS & BOWLS



SMALL BOWLS ~ £35 each

Green – Spice – Spotty - Stoneware : 8 in stock

Black - Tenmoku – Stoneware : 5 in stock

Green – Dark - Spotty – Stoneware : 5 in stock

Red – Copper – Stoneware : 3 in stock

Blue – Pale – Porcelain : 8 in stock

Blue – Dark – Spotty – Stoneware : 5 in stock

Yellow – Stoneware : 5 in stock

Grey – Pale – Spotty – Stoneware : 3 in stock

Green – Pale – Lime – Spotty – Stoneware : 3 in stock

Green – Tao – Porcelain : 4 in stock

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MERCURY HARE

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HANDMADE MUGS, TANKARDS & BOWLS



MEDIUM BOWLS ~ £55 each

Green – Spice – Spotty - Stoneware : 1 in stock

Black - Tenmoku – Stoneware : 2 in stock

Green – Dark - Spotty – Stoneware : 2 in stock

Red – Copper – Stoneware : 1 in stock

Blue – Pale – Porcelain : 4 in stock

Grey – Pale – Spotty – Stoneware : 2 in stock

Green – Pale – Celadon : 1 in stock

Green – Tao – Porcelain : 1 in stock

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MERCURY HARE

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HANDMADE MUGS, TANKARDS & BOWLS



LARGE BOWLS ~ £80 each

Green – Spice – Spotty - Stoneware : 1 in stock

Black - Tenmoku – Stoneware : 3 in stock

Green – Dark - Spotty – Stoneware : 2 in stock

Red – Copper – Stoneware : 1 in stock

Blue – Pale – Porcelain : 1 in stock

Yellow – Stoneware : 1 in stock

Grey – Pale – Spotty – Stoneware : 3 in stock

Green – Pale – Lime – Spotty – Stoneware : 1 in stock

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HANDMADE MUGS, TANKARDS & BOWLS



VERY LARGE BOWLS ~ £130 each

Green – Dark - Spotty – Stoneware : 2 in stock

Red – Copper – Stoneware : 2 in stock

Blue – Pale – Porcelain : 1 in stock

Yellow – Stoneware : 1 in stock

Grey – Pale – Spotty – Stoneware : 3 in stock

Green – Pale – Lime – Spotty – Stoneware : 1 in stock

EXTRA LARGE BOWLS ~ £200 each

Blue – Dark – Spotty – Stoneware : 1 in stock

Green – Pale – Lime – Spotty – Stoneware : 1 in stock

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