



## POTTERY IN PARADISE at PICKLES DELI in CORAL BAY

with **Casey Giakas** (732-997-9049) & **Gail Van de Bogurt** (340-514-6594)

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### Visting Artist Workshop with Leah Leitson

#### *Responding to Touch: Thrown and Altered Porcelain*

**January 4, 2015 to January 11, 2015**

#### **About the Workshop**

This pottery retreat is a seven day, hands-on workshop with time built in to explore the beaches and hiking trails in the Virgin Islands National Park. Working in porcelain, the workshop will focus on ways to manipulate both the form and the surface of freshly thrown pots. Techniques and ideas of altered parts will be directed toward the making of functional pots. Surface decoration will include working with slips and carving, and a glaze firing in a cone 10 oil burning kiln. A slide presentation will also be included and the atmosphere will be one of adventure, playfulness, and creativity. Basic throwing skills required. Participation in a one day only lecture demonstration workshop is also available. This is an intimate workshop with a small class size of 10. Register early to save your spot! **Registration deadline is November 1, 2014.** Please email us at potteryinparadise@gmail.com to register.



#### **About the Artist**

Leah Leitson received her M.F.A. in ceramics from Louisiana State University, in Baton Rouge in 1996 and her undergraduate B.F.A. in ceramics from New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred, New York, in 1984. She completed residencies at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, MT and Banff Center for the Arts in Alberta, CN. She is a member of the Piedmont Craftsmen, Inc. and the Southern Highland Craft Guild. She is a studio potter, has led many workshops throughout the U.S. including Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, Arrowmont School of Crafts in Gatlinberg, TN and currently full time faculty at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC.

#### **Artist Statement**

I make pottery that brings sculptural expression to functional ceramics. My pottery is wheel-thrown, altered, and assembled.

I approach my work in several ways. First, the pieces I create are functional forms. This means they are about touch and communication through use. Second, I consider my pieces to be sculptural objects. The formal relationships of proportion, shape, color and surface within each piece are especially important. I observe and enhance the visual and



physical relationships between two or more forms when they come together in a group or set. Third, I view my pieces as decorative objects intended to visually enhance their surroundings. I imagine my forms to be familiar and comfortable, while engaging and delighting the user.

Using a porcelain clay body is an essential element of my artistic work. Porcelain elicits a unique gestural expressiveness that subtly reveals the touch of my hand in the work. The purity and whiteness of porcelain affect the palette of the glaze colors I use, which in turn enhance an aesthetic appreciation of my work.

I have always enjoyed making pieces that can be functional forms for everyday use as well as presentation pieces for special occasions. My forms are predominately inspired by eighteenth and nineteenth century decorative arts, particularly utilitarian silver tableware and Sevres porcelain. My work is also influenced by my reverence for plant forms in nature. My intent is to artistically integrate these influences together with function so my work expresses a single vision.



For more information about the island, the studio, or the workshop, including how to register, please email us at:

**[potteryinparadise@gmail.com](mailto:potteryinparadise@gmail.com)**