



# Catherine Scott

Contemporary ceramicist, Catherine Scott, who specialises in applied glazing techniques, has returned to retail, with her unique 'fluid copper' pottery designs.

After taking a three year sabbatical from retail supply, Catherine Scott relaunched her distinctive black and copper glazed earthenware pottery. Its minimalist style, with its clean lines and simple shapes has quite a masculine feel, sitting well in both contemporary and traditional interiors.

Former architectural consultant, Catherine Scott switched careers in 2002 to become a ceramicist and within two years was supplying gift and craft retailers in Ireland, the UK and USA. However, in 2009 the economic downturn made her re-examine her business model, 'I was working flat-out but receiving little remuneration as I was supplying work almost exclusively, to trade,' she explains. 'At the same time my customers were feeling the pinch – I had to find a way to work fewer hours for a better financial return, and make my product more affordable!'

Catherine's time away from retail was spent refining her pottery range, evaluating each piece artistically, economically and environmentally. 'I had to assess where my input was integral to a piece and what areas could be carried out by others. The focus of my work is the applied glaze design, five layers of glaze is hand-brushed on to each piece and the application of the last layer dictates the way the glaze flows and ultimately the final appearance of the piece, but some of the pre-glazing processes could be done by others without compromising artistic credibility. My wave form clocks, for example, are all different, I cut each from a rolled slab of clay and gently coax them into free-standing pieces and I think it is important that I maintain control over the entire production process; however for standardised shapes such as round bowls or goblets, I use moulds and can either outsource or employ a technician to get these pieces to the bisque stage, ready for me to apply the glaze. In addition, further environmental savings can be made where the bisque stage can be completed in the same place where the clay comes from – which in my case is Italy. Essentially, the water is removed from the clay before it is shipped – reducing its weight by about 75 per cent lowering both the cost of shipping and its carbon footprint.'

In addition to producing her black and copper ceramics, Catherine has recently curated Tyrone Design Guild's August Craft Month Exhibition in Omagh's Strule Arts Centre, and is currently undertaking design research at the University of Ulster.

Catherine sells directly from her website [www.catherinescott.co.uk](http://www.catherinescott.co.uk) and through collectively owned spaces that are run by crafts-people, such as Space Craft, in College Street, Belfast, the highly acclaimed An Clahan Gallery in Gweedore, Co Donegal and Omagh Craft Collective in Omagh. You can also meet her in person at the Craft and Design Collective's Winter craft fair at Castle Ward, Co Down 9th & 10th November, her only craft fair this year.

Phone 028 8166 1013.  
[www.catherinescott.co.uk](http://www.catherinescott.co.uk)



## COMPETITION

Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living Magazine together with Catherine Scott are offering two readers the chance to win a pair of espresso cups worth £35.



### How to enter

Answer the following question:

In what year did Catherine switch careers to become a ceramicist?

Send your answers, name, address, email and phone number marked **Catherine Scott Competition** to Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living magazine, PO Box 42, Bangor, County Down, BT19 7AD or Ashgrove House, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin or enter online at: [www.ihil.net](http://www.ihil.net)

Entries will be received no later than Friday 6th December 2013. One entry per household. One separate email/postcard for each competition. Judge's decision is final. No cash alternative. Prizes are non-transferable.