



Lisa Jones, shown in her Portland studio, turned a love for design and a talent for throwing clay into a sophisticated artisan operation. *Opposite:* Jones frequents local Alder & Co. for the store's quirky wares and fresh finds, such as these striped linens, eyeglass tote and porcelain bear bank.

One shouldn't live with anything that is not beautiful. So believes Lisa Jones—designer, self-taught potter and founder of Portland-based design studio Pigeon Toe. That's why the refined ceramics her company makes are as lovely as they are utilitarian. All of the snowy white pieces—from miso bowls to salt and pepper cellars—are made of porcelain and, when colored, are tinted only on the inside. "Porcelain is a material that lasts, so the pieces have an heirloom quality, and their interior pigments are mostly subtle because I don't want the color to overpower the shape," says Jones, who also appreciates the skill of other local artisans. She has thus begun expanding her wares by collaborating with a sewer, furniture maker and metalworker who fabricate the table linens, outdoor pieces and accents Jones also designs. And the common thread across the board is her strive for timelessness. "I don't concern myself with innovation but instead focus on classic style with a small quirk or new twist," she says. "I consider myself a designer first and a potter second." pigeontoceramics.com; 503.709.5479

A touch of color peeks out from Pigeon Toe's mini creamers, shown, designed by Jones. They're tinted inside with carefully curated hues.



SIMPLE BEAUTY

LISA JONES



WHAT IS INSPIRING YOU NOW?

My mood board has images of Matthew Hilton furniture, Tom Dixon lighting and Prabal Gurung clothing, and photos of my son.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE:

A rib for smoothing clay surfaces, an electric kiln and a shrinkage ruler—all clays shrink in firing, and this allows us to throw it so it shrinks to the correct final dimensions.

I'M READING:

David Rakoff's *Half Empty*, Ann Patchett's *State of Wonder*, and *The Marriage Plot*, by Jeffery Eugenides. I'm a bit of a bibliophile and am really looking forward to T.C. Boyle, Zadie Smith and Ian McEwan's new books.

FAVORITE DECORATING SOURCE:

Alder & Co. in Portland. It's an eclectic shop full of beautiful things I've never seen before and didn't know I needed.

SECRET WORK TIP:

Take a few extra breaths when you're throwing; it makes all the difference. A rushed pot is an inevitable redo. It's also important not to throw when you're feeling frustrated because your emotions always come out in the work.