

Style Files

December



PROFILE

ABOVE: Ceramics artist Jennifer Graham in her Stratford, Ont., studio.

TOP RIGHT: Porcelain carafe set, \$225.

FAR RIGHT: Strand chandelier, \$1,750 (custom sizing available).

RIGHT: Oval vase, \$175; small pod bowl, \$50.



FABRIC PLAYS MUSE TO STRATFORD, ONT., CERAMICIST JENNIFER GRAHAM.

In 2005, after years working as a seamstress at the Shaw Festival in Niagara, Ont., Jennifer Graham closed the lid on her sewing basket to learn ceramics. What began as a romantic vision — a '70s-style back-to-the-land potter lovingly coaxing lumps of clay into earthenware — has since turned into an award-winning career. Today, based in Stratford, Ont., Graham's porcelain works — inspired by the fluid rhythms and embroidered patterns in textiles — have been featured in design exhibitions in Toronto, New York and the U.K.



YOU'VE MOVED FROM SEWING TO CERAMICS, BUT STILL USE FABRIC. WHY?

To translate my love of textiles. I make moulds by pulling fabric over an embroidery hoop. Next, I pour plaster into the fabric, which stretches it into an organic form. The fabric lends a rippled edge to my pieces, like the effect of wind on the hem of a skirt. For the embossed patterns, I press embroidered fabric into the porcelain.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU? Right now, the endless combinations of black and white. Also, the subtle differences in multiples. I make bowls and cups again and again with the same moulds, but porcelain has a way of deciding on its own how it will warp and set.

DO YOU CONSIDER

FUNCTIONALITY? I strive for it in all my work. The Gravity bowls are great serving vessels; I've used the Tasting trays for hors d'oeuvres; and I've seen my Strand chandelier hung over a baby grand. (519) 271-0216 or visit www.jennifersgraham.com.

— ALISON GARWOOD-JONES