At WL CERAMICS we make porcelain with passion. We are a family run company based in Jingdezhen, China, the birthplace of porcelain manufacturing. Since 1993, we have been producing decorative porcelain objects based on centuries of tradition and craftsmanship.

While we have mastered many manufacturing techniques, we specialise in large wheel-thrown objects such as vases, planters and ceramic furniture. Together with our clients, we design and develop unique products. Whether it is in the pursuit of exclusive dinnerware or a giant porcelain vase, we love to inspire you and turn your ideas into a reality.

In addition to working with interior architects, brands and designers, we produce a collection of our own that may be ordered as is or customised to one’s own specifications.
PRODUCTION AND CUSTOMIZATION

Whether for a design from our own collection or a completely new product for a client, our manufacturing capabilities offer many beautiful possibilities. To demonstrate some of these options, we have produced a series of sample tiles with a variety of decorative techniques and finishes that can be used on almost every porcelain object. Furthermore, several stages in the production process can be customized. Below you can learn more about the most important ones.

CLAY
To get a desired result, different clay bodies are chosen. ‘Super white’ is often used for fine dinnerware and vases, while a rougher, more stable and more yellow porcelain clay is used for large objects.

FORMING
Clay can be formed by wheel-throwing for objects both small and large, as well as cast or jiggered for small- to medium-sized products. Wheel-thrown forms are typically trimmed to get smooth surfaces and to add details.

CARVING
The surface of the dried clay form can be decorated with hand-carved forms or textures.

UNDERGLAZE DECORATION
Directly applied to a dried clay form, these hand painted decorations are covered with transparent glaze before the firing process. This technique is typically used in the classic blue and white painted porcelain.

GLAZING
There are endless variations in glazes. In general, plain color glazes have even colors and effect glazes are much more ‘alive’, where the result depends on the thickness and the firing settings. While most glazes are glossy, semi-matte and matte variations also exist.

OVERGLAZE DECORATION
Once a glazed porcelain form has been fired at 1300°C, low-temperature fired painting—or ‘overglaze’—can be added on top. This extra layer is mostly used for adding detailed decorations with a look similar to oil painting. This type of painting does not flow much during firing and therefore can maintain fine details. A second firing at around 800°C fixes the overglaze decoration to the surface.

LUSTER
As with the process of overglazing, different lustres such as gold and silver can be applied on top of a fired, glazed surface and fixed using a second firing at around 800°C.

DECALS
Printed decals can also be applied on top of the glaze after the first firing. During a second, lower firing, the images are fixed onto the glazed surface.
COLLECTION
COLUMNS by David Derksen

Porcelain cylinders and corten steel plates form the basic elements of this series, with which it is possible to create shelving, side tables, low tables and stools. Through the use of different glazes, decoration and carving of the porcelain parts, as well as color coating on the steel plates, this series creates endless possibilities for customization. From a contemporary finish to a more classical appearance, it is all possible.
COLUMNS shelving
150 x 40 x 110 cm
Porcelain with blue dripping glaze, corten steel
COLUMNS stool
30 x 30 x 40 cm
Porcelain, white effect and blue glaze

COLUMNS low table
150 x 50 x 20 cm
Porcelain with effect glaze, corten steel

COLUMNS stool
30 x 30 x 40 cm
Porcelain, dark brown effect glaze

COLUMNS stool
30 x 30 x 40 cm
Porcelain, celadon / blue glaze
STROKES by Norman Trapman

Designed by Dutch ceramic artist Norman Trapman, the ‘Strokes’ series finds its origin in his fascination for the history of ceramics. A vast collection of vases in innumerable shapes has been created over time.

The set consists of five forms that are examples of universal minimal design. Similar shapes can be found in both Western and Asian traditional and contemporary spheres.

Norman Trapman sympathizes with the statement by the architect Adolf Loos, that freedom from ornament is a sign of spiritual strength. However, when reflecting on the history of ceramics, decoration cannot be ignored. To match the simplicity of the vases, he used only lines to accentuate their forms. Because each vase is shaped on the potter’s wheel and each brush stroke is made by hand, they are also a tribute to craftsmanship and the devotion and concentration of the craftsmen.
DRESS by Hans van Bentem

During his 2019 residency at WL CERAMICS, Dutch artist Hans van Bentem created several new works, including the DRESS series. Inspired by the symmetry of wheel-thrown pottery, the female form of many vase archetypes and a love for ceramic decorative patterns, these life size objects use the elegance of the techniques to suggest a female presence; a creation of sculptural figures in decorative styles.
SEASONS by Wang Xin

The SEASONS tea cup series has been created by in-house designer Wang Xin. Inspired by spring, summer, autumn and winter, she developed a collection which uses a variety of glazes in subtle colors and contrasting textures.
CRAFT VASES by WL CERAMICS

These vases celebrate the richness and beauty of the materials used at WL CERAMICS. Formed by hand in a loose style, they clearly show the mark of the craftsman. A wide variety of effect glazes lend the pieces a lively and organic character, while some of the vases are partly unglazed, showing the natural qualities of the clay and creating an interesting contrast.
CRAFT vases
Various dimensions
Porcelain, different effect glazes
In addition to the manufacturing of large porcelain objects, WL CERAMICS is known for making refined reproductions of historical Chinese porcelain. These reproductions form the foundation for all of the techniques and materials used, and act as an endless source of inspiration for new designs. While these classics have been in and out of fashion during over the centuries, they have maintained their beauty and demonstrate qualities from particular periods in time. As such, we have decided to show a selection of these classics to the western audience.
Garlic-mouth vase
33 x 18 cm
Porcelain, underglaze and overglaze painting

Lotus flower plate
30 x 30 cm
Porcelain, overglaze painting
ABOUT JINGDEZHEN

WL CERAMICS is located in the city of Jingdezhen, the unofficial porcelain capital of China and by some accounts, the world. Believed to be the birthplace of porcelain, it is situated close by to the ‘Kaolin’ mountains, where the materials needed for porcelain—kaolin and petuntse—are found, and whose nearby rivers and forests provided ready transportation and fuel for the kilns.

In 1004, Jingdezhen became an official porcelain production site for the Chinese emperor. By the 14th century, it had become the largest center of porcelain production in China, manufacturing imperial wares for several dynasties, including the Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing.

In addition to the imperial kiln sites who produced strictly for the imperial court, Jingdezhen produced a significant amount of porcelain for export, as the demand for Chinese porcelain grew. European imitations, such as Delft Blue, were actually earthenware made to look like porcelain; indeed, the production of porcelain remained a mystery to Europeans until the 18th century, when porcelain was made in Germany for the first time.

During the Tang dynasty, Jingdezhen was called ‘Changnan’ because it was situated at the south bank of the Chang river. The western name ‘China’ originates from this old name. In this way, the city’s name became a synonym for both porcelain and for the country. Today we still use this word in both meanings.

WL Ceramics was founded in 1993. Although this date is relatively recent, the company’s manufacturing is based on centuries of expertise and craftsmanship that has been passed down from generation to generation. WL CERAMICS works with highly skilled painters and wheel throwers.