

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Hilltown 6 Pottery Tour & Project Art in Cummington Celebrate 20 Years of Ceramics and Community**

July 25–26th, 2026, 10am-5pm both days

The Hilltown 6 Pottery Tour and Project Art in Cummington mark their 20th anniversary on the weekend of July 25 & 26 by inviting the community to celebrate the contemporary ceramics and studio pottery created in the Hilltowns of western Massachusetts.

The Hilltown 6 Pottery Tour was founded in 2005. The Tour began with a group of nationally recognized potters' desire to develop a coordinated studio tour highlighting the variety of functional and sculptural ceramics made here in the community. The tour offers rare access to working studios and showcases the range, rigor, and relevance of contemporary ceramics created in rural New England. What started as a modest weekend event has grown into an anticipated annual destination drawing collectors, curators, and visitors from across the region.

Michael McCarthy, a founding member of the Hilltown 6 Pottery Tour, acknowledges the significance of twenty years of the Hilltown 6 Pottery Tour and Project Art:

“This year’s Hilltown 6 Pottery Tour is especially meaningful as it marks two decades of connection among the Hilltown 6 host potters, the many guest artists who have participated over the years, and the supportive community of ceramic enthusiasts who attend the tour annually. The Tour offers all of us a wonderful weekend to celebrate, appreciate, and collect ceramic art. Reaching this twenty year milestone provides an opportunity not only to reflect on the tour’s history but also to recognize the collaborative spirit that has shaped the tour and will continue to guide its future.”

Project Art in Cummington began as a partnership between internationally recognized sculptor Sergei Isupov and Leslie Ferrin, director of Ferrin Contemporary. The renovated 19th century mill building became the permanent studio for resident artists Isupov and his wife Kadri Parnamets who exhibit their work and offer classes and workshops that attract international students and faculty, from the community, throughout the US and as far as Australia.

The 20th anniversary celebration brings together past and present Hilltown 6 artists, special exhibitions at Project Art, and a full weekend of open studios, talks, and events. Together, the programs highlight the evolution of ceramic practice over the past two decades while reaffirming a shared commitment to fostering dialogue between artists and audiences showing that art thrives well beyond urban centers.

“With funding and grant support from Berkshire Taconic Foundation, Cummington Cultural District, Hilltown CDC and Mass Cultural Council, we can trace the impact through Isupov’s

public sculptures placed on Main Street, affordable community clay classes, skill based workshops, and the new ambitious works presented by Ferrin Contemporary's gallery. We and the artists are fortunate to have this level of support and the opportunity to engage with a wide and diverse public.” acknowledges director, Leslie Ferrin.

“As we reflect upon the achievements during our 20 years in the Hilltowns, it is also a moment to appreciate the support from our community at a time when so many rural arts initiatives are challenged. Guided by working artists, the Hilltown 6 and Project Art together represent a model of sustainability driven by collaboration, community engagement, and long term commitments to shared visions. The anniversary events invite the public to see and acquire not only finished works, but also experience beautiful artist made environments, peak of summer gardens and go behind the scenes to learn stories told through hand made objects and historic architecture.” - Leslie Ferrin, director of Project Art

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Hilltown 6 Pottery Tour

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