



a natural state

Artist: Stephen Ferrell

Video 5: Process D. Decorating Clay

(As the music plays in the background, Stephen dips into a tin of paint with his brush.) This is Mile's Mill Red here and we are going to dig some from the top surface. (Stephen paints a curve under the mouth of the pot.) This little detail comes from Mr. Wedgewood. If we look at a piece of Mr. Wedgewood's ware, there is usually a little garland up under the mouth of the pitcher. And here it was loosely copied in Edgefield. I do many vessels with a South Carolina palmetto tree on them. And here, that is what I'm going to paint. (Stephen paints palm tree, as music plays.) And here this slip is going to create a very dark background. This is the first layer of slip we are going to put on. This was used in the Phoenix Factory Pots, Colin Rhodes Pots and Thomas Chandler did some two color decoration here. Now, we are going to detail that with a porcelain type slip here. This is kaolin and this is called "slip trailing". The red will get darker and the white will get whiter in the firing process here. (As music plays, Stephen paints in fine line details of the palmetto tree and around the curve at the lip.) I have a lot of people who come and say "I do not want the Confederate "X" at the bottom", well this is not Confederate. This is Revolutionary War. These are the timbers of the wrecked British ships that we destroyed in the Charleston Harbor with our palmetto log fort there that we call Fort Moultrie today after the commander, The Battle of Sullivan's Island. (Stephen comments as he paints with the squeeze stylus.) There are little lumps that form in the tube here and clog the nozzle up. Its done it right there. Now when this fires, this is all going to change. The body will become green from the glaze. This will turn to a deep brown or reddish color and the white here will become much more white. (Stephen compares the new jug to that of a finished jug.) And here we see the finished result. (Stephen holds up the unfinished jug.) This one will need to dry and then be bisque fired at cone 06 around 1850 degrees. The glaze will be applied to it. It is really a feldspar and hard wood ash mixture in liquid. It will be dipped onto the pot and then this is gone through firing to cone 11 or 12, around 2,400 degrees Fahrenheit. That is what it will take to finish off the vessel here.