



The Art of Ceramics

Kevala, in Sanskrit, means perfect, whole, and complete. **Dewald Haynes** of Indonesia Design interviewed **Wendy Thomas** about the design philosophy of ceramics. Kevala Ceramics are entirely handmade by artisans at a facility in Bali, each piece is a thoughtful statement of contemporary design realized through the heart and hands of the finest skilled craftsmen in the world.



When did your fascination with ceramics start?

My fascination was started by my mother who collected wedge wood blue jasper pieces. I loved the feel, texture and detail. I was also very lucky my hometown was close to the ceramics capital Stoke on Trent, we visited the potteries often as a child.

What is the main concept behind Kevala Ceramics?



To produce beautiful handmade ceramics that are “perfect, whole and complete”. I love that every piece produced are just as much functional and durable as they are beautiful.

Where does your Inspiration for design come from?

My background in engineering allows the production and technical side of ceramics to come easier than the design. Kevala’s Inspiration for design comes from working closely with our clients, skilled artisans and guest designers to produce personalized and unique ranges.

Who are your guest designers/artists and what unique aspect does each one bring to Kevala?

We have designs from **Dimity Kidston**, an Australian textile and ceramic artist. Dimity has designed and developed with Kevala an exciting range of handcrafted sgraffito ceramic homewares. Colorful, naïve and tactile they are durable, functional objects handcrafted with love and respect for time honored tradition.

Gilly Beal is another featured artist and a former Bali resident. Gilly wanted to capture a design element from the island she



loves so much. She had always admired the craftsmanship inherent in the traditional Bali Aga baskets, that take months to make and feature a fine, even weave. Taking these as her inspiration, she has created a series of ceramic pieces that pay homage to the beauty of the baskets.

Then there is **Anna Pretty**, who arrived in Bali back in 2009. She has an impressive background to boot, inclusive of iconic industry names and brands. Philippe Starck, Tom Dixon, Wedgwood, Zara Home and Habitat. Anna developed a series of unique decorative vases for Kevala.

We are always inspired by new and exciting people and are currently working with an Australian Industrial Designer **Kaitlin Liddell**. Kaitlin’s beautiful designs will be the newest addition to our Kevala family.

Your ceramics are produced in Bali there for “Made in Indonesia”, where are all the raw materials sourced from?

The materials, like the designers, come from all over the world.

What is your idea of what good product design is?

I believe good product design is achieved when functionality and aesthetics are combined. I love that our ceramic pieces provide people with just as much enjoyment when they use them as they do when they display them.



The distribution of your product must be challenging, how do you cope with the demand and securing safe deliveries?

We partner with amazing cargo companies for domestic and International shipping. They understand the material and care for our product.

Hard work goes into becoming the best in one’s field, what would be the secret behind the success of Kevala besides all the hard work and passion that goes into it?

Consistency and an excellent relationship with our staff. ¹⁰