

Inspired by African wildlife, the earthenware Zizibie range (R4 500) embodies the new generation of Ardmore ceramic art.



Ardmore candlesticks (R14 000) and fine dining table decor, with an air of charm and beauty

POTTY ABOUT AFRICAN STYLE

Cate Rayner visited the Ardmore Ceramic Studio and fell in love with its new Design Collection

ARDMORE is well known for its daring mix of unusual ceramic techniques and bold displays of African rhythms, colour and folklore in its energetic designs.

This year sees the internationally recognised art studio branching out into new creative territory with the launch of the Ardmore Design Collection.

"This unique and exciting venture involves the next generation of Ardmore. My daughter, Catherine, is working on fabric designs and my son, Jon is operations director, so it's wonderful that we are all involved," says Ardmore founder and creative director Phe Richard.

"A generous grant by the Business Trust's Shared Growth Challenge Fund has given the Ardmore team an opportunity to work on developing luxurious lifestyle and home fashion products."

For the ultimate in home wildlife motifs, creative structures, the graphic, vibrant and leopard

inspire the Zizibie range.

Each set is available in a limited edition of 30 with each piece individually consisting of a charger, round plate, side plate, soup plate, bowl and dinner set.

A dramatic departure from Ardmore's traditional vibrant colours is stylishly

embodied in the black and white Ebony range.

Drawing on bold pre-existing techniques, this limited edition of

10 will also make for an elegant, eye-catching table setting. All Ardmore dinnerware pieces are microwave and

dishwasher proof.

Also part of the distinctive range of functional products is a striking lighted dinner wax, created by Richard and graphic designer Kevin Perry.

"The popular Quibakadasha "New Beginnings" couch was one of its nominees in the 2011 Design Indaba's Most Beautiful Object in South Africa competition and is now available on order. This stunning signature piece will be a limited edition of 40.

The widest selection of Ardmore ceramic artworks can be found at the Ardmore showroom and gallery in the Clarendon Valley R200 Midlands. Ardmore pieces are also available at selected premier decorators such as the Kerkhof Spa and the



The limited-edition New Beginnings couch. Price available on order.

ARDMORE OVER THE YEARS

ARDMORE's journey began in 1980, when ceramicist and painter Phe Richard moved to Ardmore from his home in the Cheungape Valley and took on her first student, Kevin Makuluwe, daughter of the latter's housekeeper.

They worked closely together for two years until they were joined by two of Phe's other friends.

French Skolanda and her sister, Brian, followed and the studio's producing line of art ceramic ware to sell. In 1981, it joined Makuluwe's own studio, the prodigious Woodstock Pottery Artel Noord.

Over the years, Ardmore artists have grown to more than 50 now and, written, and has moved from the Cheungape Valley to Clarendon in the heart of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands.

Richard oversees every Ardmore piece and supports each artist. In 2010, she was honoured by the (Pretoria)-based Women's Campaign International

for the 40th Anniversary in the United States in New York, joining more than 500 other artists and designers.

In recognition of her work "inspiring artists to see it from a different point of view" the Ardmore Ceramic Studio continues to challenge the boundaries of the art world with its unique creations. Its work has been exhibited globally by the 40th Anniversary

A striking collection, the Ardmore (R200 MID) is an example of Ardmore's unique sculptural art.



The Ebony range (R3 800) of black and white dinnerware



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