

Wedgwood Pottery

THE ANNA SAFLEY HOUSTON COLLECTION

JASPERWARE is stoneware with an unglazed, biscuit finish. Colors include pale blue, known as “Wedgwood Blue,” as well as dark blue, sage green, lilac, and yellow, which is very rare. Contrasting relief decorations create a cameo effect.



BLACK BASALT employs neoclassical and Greek designs on solid black. The pieces achieved their color in the heat of the kiln.

ROSSO ANTICO, Italian for “old red,” became very popular with the introduction of black relief decoration. Rosso Antico designs mimic those of Egyptian hieroglyphics and Greek pottery.



Houston Museum
of Decorative Arts

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201 High Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37403



JOSIAH WEDGWOOD

English Potter • Entrepreneur • Abolitionist

Josiah Wedgwood, 1730–1795, was apprenticed at age 14 to his brother Thomas, a potter. In 1759 he opened his own pottery, experimenting with clays for a porcelain-like look but at a much more affordable price.

To perfect his craft, Josiah conducted 5,000 clay and glaze trials, keeping a record of the trials, in code, in an “experiment book.”

In 1765 Josiah received an order from Queen Charlotte for a creamware tea set with raised green flowers. The queen was pleased and granted her royal warrant; creamware became known as “Queensware.”

In 1787 Josiah joined the Society for the Purpose of Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade. He became an ardent abolitionist, but also benefited from the slave trade by making pieces such as tea sets and sugar bowls for products that were produced by enslaved people.

Anna Safley Houston, *pioneering businesswoman and antiques collector, curated a remarkable collection of over 15,000 items, spanning glassware, pottery, textiles, furniture, and much more.*

