

PETER VALE
Artist's Statement

Vale Craft Gallery

I am a Green Man. I have had a "green thumb" since early childhood, growing plants indoors and outside in the garden. In 2003, I found my new home by following a path through the open garden door, leading to a large ivy-covered mask that resided outside on the brick wall. My relationship with plants is a part of my psyche, the source of my dreams, a lifelong pursuit, and the inspiration for my artwork.



The Green Man is an archetype representing man's unity with nature, and is a symbol of rebirth and renewal. Depicted in ancient and medieval art as a man's face surrounded by leaves, the Green Man image takes on a new relevance today as an ecological symbol. I hope that my contemporary Green Man ceramics will serve as a reminder of humanity's interdependence with Nature, and of our vital role in preserving Mother Earth.

What is the Green Man?

"A foliate head in the shape of an acanthus leaf: a corbel supporting the Bamberg Horseman, Bamberg cathedral, Germany, early 13th century A Green Man is a sculpture, drawing, or other representation of a face surrounded by or made from leaves. Branches or vines may sprout from the nose, mouth, nostrils or other parts of the face and these shoots may bear flowers or fruit. Commonly used as a decorative architectural ornament, Green Men are frequently found on carvings in churches and other buildings (both secular and ecclesiastical). "The Green Man" is also a popular name for English public houses and various interpretations of the name appear on inn signs, which sometimes show a full figure rather than just the head. The Green Man motif has many variations. Found in many cultures around the world, the Green Man is often related to natural vegetative deities springing up in different cultures throughout the ages. Primarily it is interpreted as a symbol of rebirth, or "renaissance," representing the cycle of growth each spring. Some[1] [2] speculate that the mythology of the Green Man developed independently in the traditions of separate ancient cultures and evolved into the wide variety of examples found throughout history."

-From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia