

Summer Company 2017: Darragh Gillis

Daramics



Sixteen-year-old Darragh Gillis is following in his mother's footsteps creating a pottery business called Daramics.

"I make custom, handmade ceramics and sell them to collectors or just anyone that's looking to buy a handmade ceramic mug or plate or bowl," he explains.

His mother runs a YAK Camp, a summer art camp for kids, so after growing up learning countless artsy techniques, including pottery, Darragh decided he would use his skills and start his own business with the help of the summer company program.

"I thought of it as a good opportunity to get a little bit of extra money towards my business and it would also give me some more knowledge and maybe (I would) learn some new things."

With the ability to reach out to his Mom's following as well as some of his own, Darragh was confident his business would be a success. He used Facebook as his main point of sale and brought in countless customers this way, with a lot of them buying from the United States, making revenue even higher for Darragh.

"I'm making lots of money," he says. "I have high demand, I have custom orders – people are asking me to make custom mugs for them, like, their names or whatever on them. I'm making mugs for businesses."

On top of his on-line sales, Darragh also made connections with local businesses in Kingston such as his own part-time workplace.

"I work at Pan Chanco and they've loved my work and they've asked for me to make things for them for their café," Darragh says.

He also designed products for Loving Spoonful, a non-profit organization increasing access to fresh food through growing and delivery, by turning their logo into a stamp and placing that onto mugs.

Overall, Darragh has made over \$1000 selling his ceramics in the summer months, which is pretty impressive when it can take weeks just to create one batch of products.

He says he's most impressed with how smoothly everything has gone. He says he hasn't run into any problems along the way and has been selling everything he makes.

"I would say the summer has been a success, yes. I've started a business, I've made lots of money and I'm going to continue with my business and continue making lots of money."

For his future career, he says entrepreneurship is a what he wants to do, though he's open to possibilities when it comes to choosing what kind of business he'll pursue.

