

## *The Last Supper*

Texas, home to cattle ranches and more death-row executions than any other state, doesn't allow steak for a final meal. If you order steak in Texas, you get hamburger.

I have always been focused on food. As a kid, I won eating contests; these days I grow organic produce. The years I spent in Oklahoma, which has the highest per capita rate of executions, turned my interest in food toward final meals.

*The Last Supper* is a series of ceramic plates illustrating final meal requests in the United States. To date, I have painted nearly 500. I plan to continue adding fifty more each year until capital punishment is abolished.

When looking at the inmates' humble choices, it is important to note that while rituals and traditions vary, most states limit final-meal allowances to twenty dollars. Maryland is the only state that does not allow any meal selection. A last cigarette is permitted in some prisons. Alcohol is prohibited in all. Texas denies bubble gum. Sometimes requests provide clues about personality, race, and region. An Oregon inmate's final meal request closed with "I would appreciate the eggs hot." And who wouldn't.

Julie Green. *Gastronomica Journal*, Spring 2011, with revised plate count

Statistics from The Death Penalty Information Center FactSheet 11 July 2011  
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org>

Total U.S. State-Sanctioned Executions Since 1976: **1260**

Numbers of State Executions Since 1976

471 Texas	12 Illinois
108 Virginia	7 Utah
96 Oklahoma	6 Tennessee
69 Florida	5 Maryland
68 Missouri	5 Washington
53 Alabama	3 Montana
50 Georgia	3 Nebraska
45 Ohio	3 Pennsylvania
43 North Carolina	3 Kentucky
43 South Carolina	2 Oregon
28 Louisiana	1 Connecticut
27 Arkansas	1 Colorado
27 Arizona	1 Idaho
20 Indiana	1 New Mexico
15 Mississippi	1 Wyoming
14 Delaware	1 South Dakota
13 California	0 New Hampshire
12 Nevada	0 Kansas
	3 U.S Federal Government

States without the death penalty

Alaska

Hawaii

Illinois

Iowa

Maine

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

New Jersey

New Mexico

New York

North Dakota

Rhode Island

Vermont

West Virginia

Wisconsin

Washington, DC