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KEN EASTMAN

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Ken Eastman is internationally celebrated as a maker of powerful abstract pots. This new collection of multi-faceted vessels represents a development of his interests and stems from a recent re-examination of his approach to materials and processes. Whereas many of his past works have been likened to man-made architectural structures, these pots are organic in feel, as if the result of some geological event.

Instead of carefully controlling sheets of clay in the studio, he has taken them outside, either rolling them across or dropping them onto different surfaces to collect textural impressions. He sometimes drapes clay over objects, leaving it there until leather-hard, so as to collect indentations of form. He speaks of assembling the resulting sections of marked and wounded clay as 'making with found objects' and how the change of starting point means that everything else has shifted in his approach, from the application of colour (also subject to less control and now just as likely to be splattered, poured, or applied by hand, as by brush), to an increase in firing temperature.

The resulting works are clear articulations of material and process, where he has found a new and distinctive means of expressing a longstanding interest *'to get a kind of rambling, patched together difficulty into the work - as if no-one would ever intend something to be that way, but when you saw it, it was somehow right.'*

Tessa Peters

Biographical notes

Born 1960, Ken Eastman studied at Edinburgh College of Art (1979-83) and at the Royal College of Art, London (1984-87). He has won numerous prizes in the field of the ceramic arts, including the 'Premio Faenza', Italy in 1995; the 'Gold Medal' at the World Ceramic Exposition, Korea and the 'President De la Generalitat Valencia' Award at the 5th Biennale International De Ceramica, Manises, Spain (both 2001). He was awarded the Arts Foundation Fellowship in Ceramics (1998-99) and elected as a member of the International Academy of Ceramics in 2003.

He has recently shown new work at 'I Maestri del Concorso' at the International Museum of Ceramics, Faenza, Italy and the 5th World Ceramic Biennale Korea (2009). Examples of his work are held in numerous public collections including The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Japan; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA; Musee des Arts Decoratifs de Montreal, Canada; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, Australia; Museum Boijmans van Beunigen, Rotterdam; Landesmuseum, Stuttgart; Museu de Ceramica de Manises, Valencia; and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

For more information, images, or to arrange an interview with the artist contact Tatjana Marsden or Alida Sayer
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