

# Richard Heeley



**Richard St John Heeley.**  
**The Stratford Gallery Showcase, May 2020.**

These pots are a significant waypoint in my journey as potter and in my relationship with the clay. They represent many years of trying to achieve a way of making that gives me faith in my belief that the potter has an affinity with the landscape; the potter works with water, earth, fire, wood, salt, metal and stone. Each element of this potter's palette needs a level of understanding combined with sensitive handling. I use a momentum wheel to develop the confident harmonious rhythm which is needed to create this type of work.

This selection of pieces has all the qualities that I have been seeking to achieve in the woodfiring. The Shino glaze has reacted with the porcelain to give phenomenal colour responses, from soft pinks to crusted gold and flashes of silver. The kiln atmosphere during the firing and reduction cooling has achieved a matt gold lustre that is unique to wood firing. The landscape paintings of wetland grasses have been toned and washed by the flame and ash; each has had a different reaction from the cross draft kiln - painted by fire.

I wanted to work with a gallery that understands my practice and which will allow me to exhibit some of the best pots from this journey so far. The Stratford Gallery exhibits some of the most beautiful and innovative ceramics and art from the UK and beyond; they respect and appreciate skill and artistic practice, curating harmonious and elegant shows and bringing them to a wider audience. I am delighted to be showcasing this work with them.