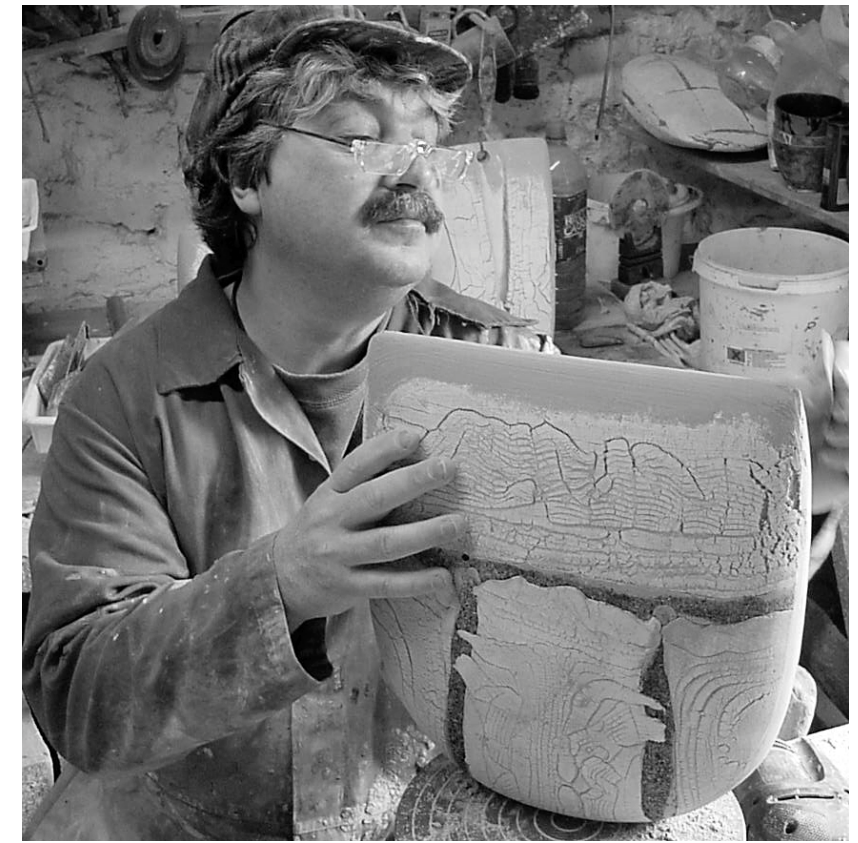


PETER HAYES

Moseley Road Secondary Art School 1960 - 1963

International Ceramicist

"The most important art lesson I had attending Moseley Road Secondary Art School was the art of survival"



As a boy Peter used to collect weathered objects found in Cornwall

At the age of 12 he was selected to attend the School and went on to Birmingham College of Art. Fascinated by the history of ceramics, he travelled to Africa, India, Japan, Korea, and New Mexico, working as a ceramic artist with local craftspeople, investigating traditional methods using basic materials and tools.

Returning home in 1982, Peter settled in Bath where he built a studio in a disused Toll House on Cleveland Bridge.

His ceramic art is inspired by ancient crafts. He is drawn to the timeless shapes and exquisite surfaces of artefacts created in other cultures. The distinctive appearance of his ceramics comes from techniques like Raku firing that he discovered in Japan, combined with Shinto philosophy, working with opposites – fire and water, rough and smooth – and the sacred power of both animate and inanimate objects.

Peter is interested in the process of change in materials sometimes through accident

After introducing iron and copper minerals into the ceramic surface, he submerges his work in the

river or sea sometimes for years before he rediscovers it. The river salts oxidise the copper in the clay and transform the finished pieces with colours of blue-green patina and red oxide. Weathering is an integral part of his creative process.

"My aim in my work is not to compete with nature, but for the work to evolve within the environment."

Using different clays from bone china to crank clay, some not suitable for Raku firing, can encourage cracking in the kiln and produces the signature surface of his work.

"I still enjoy digging my own clay. When the Bath canals were cut in the early 1790's, the navvies used to dump a cartload of puddle clay every third of a mile beside the tow path just in case any leakage would occur. This clay has weathered with rain, frost and snow and been baked by the sun for 150 years."

Recently he has set up a winter studio in Udaipur in India

He goes there for inspiration when the studio in Bath gets too cold. This has introduced him to new craftsmen working with a range of materials including glass, marble, and Damascus steel.

