

## **Andrew Pentland: Potter**

After a three-year degree at Sunderland university (BA (Hons) Glass and Ceramics) it was Ceramics that captured my focus and has continued to keep me captivated ever since. It was pots from the studio movement and timeless domestic pieces that both begged for use but equally captivated the eye for aesthetic beauty, that were the starting point for much of my introduction to clay.

My work is predominantly wheel thrown and domestic based, moving occasionally towards the individual piece that may be thrown and altered, or have added embellishments or accents to frame or accentuate the form. These pieces can tip slightly more towards the visually aesthetic pleasing as opposed to the physical ergonomics required for daily use. A strong catalyst for my development was building a wood burning kiln sometime in 2005. The kiln is a Joe Finch adapted fast fire kiln with approx 40 cubic foot of packing space. As an emerging maker, combining the exhilarating challenge of firing alongside making work to fill the next firing was like a self-driven apprenticeship with highs and lows.

After almost 20 years of firing with wood I've certainly been moulded by this process and the work I make today would simply not exist without the tight connection to firing and absorbing both the rewarding as well as the less successful firings.

I continue to learn from each firing and draw on all previous results; putting into use this information to plan and prepare the surfaces of each piece in readiness of its turn through the firing and harsh exposure to fire. For my planned workshop I hope to share some of my throwing methods, clay preparation, slip application and glaze choice, and demonstrate how these individual elements are all considered and planted methodically into each into each ball of clay, waiting to be thrown.