

## **Eric Knoche**

### **Artist Statement**

I make sculptural pottery and abstract sculpture using a variety of hand building techniques including coiling, pinching and working with slabs. I use local materials as much as possible and I typically fire my work with wood and gas.

Over the last twenty years I have focused on firing my work in Japanese-style wood kilns. In particular, I have fired a lot of my work in a style adopted from Bizen, Japan, where the work is covered in charcoal at peak temperature. The patina on the finished pieces is the result of the dynamic interaction between the materials (clay, slip, glaze), the forms, the placement and arrangement in the kiln, and the firing.

My most important artistic influence was the annual 'Whitman's Sampler' boxes that my grandma bought for Christmas; the kind where each chocolate is a different shape and style and there is a key on the inside of the box to tell you what's what. Of course there are other things that have influenced me, but I think that is the earliest and strongest.