NEIL TETKOWSKI



"In my wheel-thrown earthenware vessels, I have sought to make forms and surfaces equally important, emphasizing the aesthetic potential rather than utility. They are coated with terra sigillata and fired in a salt kiln, but these two traditional techniques come together in a non-traditional way. I spray terra sigillata on the vessels and then fire them in a salt kiln, but at a low rather than high temperature for an unglazed effect. The colors are not painted on, but are produced in the kiln.

"Recently I have made very large platter forms. Some are thrown with 250 pounds of clay and reach a diameter of 48 inches. I want to produce a vessel so grand that it demands confrontation. I like breaking

the barrier of the traditional scale of pottery—four-foot platters cease being 'plates.'
The impact is overwhelming when the viewer's field of vision is filled by the work."

Born 1955, in Buffalo, New York. Lives and works in Granville, Ohio. Attended New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University (BFA 1977), and Illinois State University, Normal (MFA 1980). Assistant professor of ceramic art, Denison University, Granville (1980-83). Recipient of Individual Artist's Fellowship, Ohio Arts Council (1983).

TOP AND INSET: Vessel, 1981, 18½" diameter, and *Platter*, 1983, 36" diameter, both wheel-thrown earthenware with terra sigillata, salt fired.

