Studio artist Matthew Metz is noted for his functional work, wheel-thrown pots primarily of porcelain that are then richly decorated in a variety of techniques – sprigging, carving, drawing. The pots are then finished by firing in a wood, gas or electric kiln with soda or salt firing. The decorations draw from Metz’s interest in a variety of artistic and historical traditions as well as an interest in the natural sciences and man’s place in the world. They are contemporary in feel and while they seem to tell a story, it is the viewer who supplies the narrative. Ultimately it is important to Metz that his pieces be useful as well as beautiful. “My functional pots add another dimension, I hope, to the user’s everyday life,” Metz has said,1 celebrating the fact that pottery has the ability to fulfill this dual position.


**ARTIST’S STATEMENT – MATTHEW METZ**

“My work is wheel thrown, sometimes altered, and decorated using a variety of processes. These include: sprigging, sgraffito, faceting, and mishima. The pots are then fired in a wood and oil fired kiln, and salt glazed. My influences are diverse, ranging from Asian ceramics and American decorative arts to German Expressionist woodcuts and Picasso. My iconography reflects my interest in man’s place in the natural world. Pottery has the potential to be powerful in the way it moves between spaces – the museum, the gallery, the kitchen, the living room. A vase can function to hold flowers or function as a simply visual pleasure.”1


**RESUME – MATTHEW METZ**

1961 Born, Kendallville, IN

1982-1983 Apprenticeship, Bethel Pike Pottery, Albany, IN

1983 B.F.A., Ceramics, Ball State University, Muncie, IN

1985 M.F.A., Ceramics, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Edinboro, PA

1986 Residency Grant, Mid-Atlantic States Arts Consortium and the National Endowment for the Arts

1986-1989 Technician, Ceramics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

1987 Instructor, Concordia College, Ann Arbor, MI

1988 Instructor, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI
1989  Instructor, Center for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI
1989-1990  Resident, Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT
1990  Individual Crafts Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts
1993-1995  Adjunct Faculty, Winona State University, Winona, MN
1997  McKnight Artist Fellowship for Ceramic Artists, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
2000-2006  Studio Potter, Houston, MN
2005  McKnight Artist Fellowship for Ceramic Artist, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
2006-present  Studio Potter, Alfred Station, NY

BIOGRAPHY – MATTHEW METZ

Born in Kendallville, IN, Matthew Metz received his undergraduate training at Ball State University in Muncie, IN, working as an apprentice at the Bethel Pike Pottery in Albany, IN, during his last year. He then enrolled at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, earning his M.F.A. in 1985, and spent the next few years, 1986-1989, as a Ceramics Technician at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. During this time he also taught at Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, and the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. The following year he worked as a resident artist at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, MT. Since that time Metz has worked primarily as a studio artist, first in Houston, MN, and since 2006 in Alfred Station, NY, while still continuing to teach workshops throughout the United States and Canada.

Metz is a functional potter, producing wheel-thrown, sometimes altered, pots primarily of porcelain. The pots are then decorated with a variety of techniques - carving, drawing, sprigging – and fired in a wood, gas or electric kiln utilizing salt or soda glazing. “I enjoy the play between dense intentional surface and the serendipity of atmospheric firing,” Metz says. The inspiration for his decorative work draws from many traditions including Asian pottery, Greek and Roman pots, and American and European folk art, but is contemporary in feeling, almost abstract. “Though the images resist a specific narrative reading, the iconography has been chosen for its personal resonance,” Metz has said. It reflects as well his interest in the natural world and man’s place in it. “…the patterns and images I choose come from my life and experience. Interest in the natural sciences (evolutionary biology, ethology) and history (archaeology, physical culture) find their way, obliquely, into the work. A coffee cup has as much capacity to carry meaning as any other form of expression.” The selection of color enhances the decoration but does not overpower it allowing him to cover the surface without cluttering it.

Ultimately, however, for Metz, as for many functional potters, the importance of the piece as an object that can be used as well as visually enjoyed is important. “Pottery has the potential to be
powerful in the way it moves between spaces – the museum, the gallery, the kitchen, the living room. A vase can function to hold flowers or function as a simply visual pleasure."

Metz’s work has been included in a number of exhibitions as well as both public and private collections, among them the Minneapolis Institute for the Arts, the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock, and the Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT. Among his awards are a Residency Grant from the Mid-Atlantic States Arts Consortium and the National Endowment for the Arts, an Individual Crafts Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, and a McKnight Artist Fellowship for Ceramic Artists.

   http://www.ferringallery.com/lenox/metz_thayer.htm
3. Matthew Metz.  
   http://www.akardesign.com/creators/moreinfo.asp?iCreatorID=35&iCatagoryID=4
   http://pmacraftshow.org/artists-ceramics/

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY – MATTHEW METZ

Books and Catalogs


Periodicals


**Video and Other Media**


**GALLERY REPRESENTATION – MATTHEW METZ**

Ferrin Gallery, 437 North Street, Pittsfield, MA  01201

AKAR,  257 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, IA  52240

Red Star Studios Ceramic Center, 821 W. 17th Street, Kansas City, MO  64108

**WEB SITES – MATTHEW METZ**

Resume for Matthew Metz on AKAR Design site

Resume for Matthew Metz on Ferrin Gallery site

Craft in America, “Matthew Metz,” with link to video of Metz throwing a pot and talking about his work
http://santafe.com/Pages/1761
Article about Matthew Metz in conjunction with show *Form & Function*

http://www.redstarstudios.org/gallery-current_show.php
Link to Matthew Metz page at Red Star Studios with photos of his work

http://www.theclaystudio.org/exhibitions/metz.php
Article about exhibition *Matthew Metz: New Work*

News release about the awarding of the McKnight fellowships, 2004

http://www.unl.edu/finearts/ceramicartists08release.shtml
News release of Matthew Metz visit to the art department of University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

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