My most recent and lasting involvement is the making of functional handbuilt porcelain vessels. Primarily, I use coil and slab techniques which are both direct and spontaneous in spirit. This method of construction, in conjunction with my practice of historically researching a particular function, provides the working basis for my pieces. Besides acquiring additional insight in the treatment of a given function, I feel that the use of such models gives me the freedom to create a vessel with strong contemporary, sculptural presence.

Just as I strive towards an exceptional or unusual blend of individual elements in the form, I take advantage of "special effects" glazes and their firing by-products.

That, in conjunction with a painterly application of multiple glazes, results in a rich and varied surface which complements the form. Examples might include copper reds, chrome pinks, crackles, and ash glazes.

Mary Sentner
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