



RAFAEL
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CERAMISTA

The work that I present to you is stoneware ceramic vases. These vases have been made with refractory pastes and enamels composed of natural products and synthetic raw materials, to be fired in a wood kiln at about 1280 °C.

I have been working on ceramics since 1982, and I've always used refractory stoneware pastes, clear or high iron contents. I also remain faithful to woodfiring, although I recognize that the fuel used should not be of great importance in the final product. However, the direct flame, which affects the materials, and the ashes placed therein, sometimes allow me to achieve effects of a variety difficult to achieve with other techniques. On the other hand, this type of firing allows me feel much closer to the pieces, more involved in all operations, when it takes eight long hours feeding the kiln, feeling the crackling of the firewood and the soft buzzing of the flame path of the chimney; occasionally opening the spy hole to check the temperature.

These pieces have a simple conception and are the result of many years of work, with ups and downs, with euphoria periods and abandonments. This work, which has its origin in the enthusiasm and teaching of friends from "La Patera", is a clear reminder of a distant past (some Eastern ceramics) and recent (Leach, Hamada, Cumella, Artigas and so many others). I humbly took the challenge as a way of show my admiration for these potters.

Some pieces are symmetrical and have been made in potter's wheel. They are, therefore, eternal forms that are of all, and they are also my own. Others are asymmetric, irregular, with one or two mouths. Their shapes derive directly from the simplicity of the potter's wheel and each of its multiple profiles show the profile in a humble but eternal way: there are many pieces in one. In all of them I look for peace and a balance and, as you can see, look for simple, moderate, humble forms and decorations, but capable of transmitting calmness when they are perfectly successful.

This work, ceramics in general, requires time and does not need to hurry haste. C. Chaplin, who was not exactly a philosopher, said that in reality we are all apprentices; that life is so short that it does not give time for more. Therefore, turning life into a continuous learning requires humility and patience. The fruits will come, if we deserve them. So, humility, patience and little hurry, exactly the opposite of our times. Therefore, we better look for that peace and balance away from them.

Rafa Galindo

Ceramist.