

CAROLINE EGLESTON

## **A Painterly Performance : Gesture Articulated on the Ceramic Surface**

Before my MA Ceramics at UCA Farnham, I had been making handmade tiles but I wanted to extend my technical know-how to scale up my work. I also sought to create more expressive shapes and use the wall as 'canvas' for mounting them.

My research year began by looking at qualities of the 'painterly' on the ceramic surface, inspired by the bold colour and playful energy of American ceramicist, Betty Woodman.

Wanting this dynamic in my own work, I explored techniques of painting directly onto clay but then also discovered the potential for liquid clay slip to record gestural marks and create subtle textural effects, bringing a layered depth.

Clay and glaze pigments, and how they are applied, communicate, in much the same way as our faces, our skin, our own gestures reveal our inner sensibilities. These pigments become the words to articulate a language on the ceramic surface and so the artist communicates directly to the viewer. Capturing the energy of this gestural language has become the impulse behind my work.

This year has been thoroughly worthwhile, intense and enjoyable, with such supportive teaching staff and colleagues.

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