

Artist's Statement

L a r r y N e l s o n

The clay is alive.

Sometimes it's cooperative, my friend. A partner in inspiration. Sometimes it's opinionated. Sometimes contrary, even defiant. It's always challenging and always rewarding. Even though I may approach the collaboration with a specific goal in mind, the clay often has it's own agenda. It prefers to relax in elegant, organic shapes.

While the clay seems to intentionally challenge me, I return the challenge. Asking it to take the shape of something it isn't. Maybe a rigid, mechanical form that might be the result of a tinsmith's efforts. Or, possibly the gravity-shaped line of a hanging textile.

When I've finally reached agreement with the clay and we're both content with the result, I find myself negotiating with the glaze. I choose the glaze and the glaze and clay choose the final outcome while in the kiln.

The result is, without a doubt, the result of a three-way partnership. I hope you enjoy my work. What you see today is just a stop on a long evolutionary journey. Stay tuned for more...