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Peter Collis

Peter Collis has worked over the years with the wheel thrown object, exploring the infinite possibilities of the curved form - throwing the perfect form has been one of Peter's most important ambitions. The final surface treatment has always been a crucial part of the whole equation. A pure form with appropriate surface treatment can stand on its own, but also become part of an interesting group. He has worked with paper clay and Egyptian paste for a number of years and particularly enjoys the waka form, inspired boat forms of the Pacific region as well as intertwining strands of clay in basket weave and tapa cloth patterns.

Working with strong colour has been a trademark of Peter's work. The rich reds and turquoise glazes complement the bottle and ovoid forms. Their formulation and firing has interested him for a long time. Strong forms are also enhanced by the crackle effect of the white glaze and fine grey-black line. Each piece has a unique crackle pattern rather like a thumbprint, in the unending range of spirals and grid, through to the simplest line. His ceramic artworks are not conventional vases but rather object to be observed and enjoyed.

A Creative New Zealand grant has allowed Peter to explore slip casting large bone china pieces that have exhibited in major exhibitions throughout the country. A highly respected potter, Peter exhibits internationally and is incorporated into collections around the world.

Peter Collis lives in Birkenhead, Auckland. He is a resident artist at the Monterey Art Gallery.