

Randy Johnston

# RESPONDING TO NATURE

PUCKER GALLERY • BOSTON





## Randy Johnston

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Mirroring the natural forces that effect his pottery, Randy’s ceramic pieces appear as though they could have been born from the earth. Glaze and color patterns mimic blades of grass, weathered rock, or ash. The forms, imitating objects such as rounded boulders or elongated architectural structures, display subtle imperfections akin to the Japanese tradition of *wabi sabi*. As such, Randy’s artistic aesthetic reflects nature at its most elemental—rhythmic, unyielding, effortlessly complex.

In the winter of 2019, Randy Johnston and his copper Ikebana pieces were at the mercy of the monstrous Polar Vortex storm. Frigid temperatures and abundant snowfall compromised the kiln’s temperature, causing a shockingly unexpected result: instead of various tones of copper green, Johnston’s pots emerged from the kiln dark black.

Shaken but hopeful, Randy sandblasted his works in a last-ditch effort to revive them. Delightfully, the black layer washed away and revealed an even more unexpected, beautiful patina of copper green, bronze, and black glazes. As it turned out, the brutal winter storm

became a blessing in disguise, aiding Randy in creating two organic copper Ikebana pots that are truly unique.

While they evoke organic spontaneity, Randy’s ceramics also show the intentional, skillful hand of the potter and identify the dualities engaging modern art and the concepts of ancient and non-western art. Randy’s own fingerprints can be found stamped within thick glazes of a vase or indented into the body of a yunomi. Boat forms, figure vases, and the multiple spoon pieces connect the framework of human elements: bodies, technologies, and the metaphoric potential of a form’s development of abstraction within the aesthetic of utilitarian objects.

The dualist nature of Randy’s pieces as both crafted and natural, deliberate and unplanned, demonstrate Randy’s impeccable ability to enact and embrace the unexpected. In the aftermath of the winter storm, Randy Johnston’s recent firing shows us how two elemental forces—the master potter and unpredictable nature—working in tandem achieve astoundingly breathtaking results.

—JACQUELINE BELFIELD GERTNER



**Boat Form**  
Kaolin red slip stripe with iron man slip and natural ash glaze  
6.5 x 22 x 7.25"  
RJ689

ALL WORKS ARE STONEWARE



Figurative Vase  
Copper green glaze  
19.5 x 8.5 x 6"  
RJ608



**Square Cut Plate**  
Nuka glaze with wax pattern  
1 x 9.5 x 9.5"  
RJ644



**Rectangular Platter**  
Nuka glaze with iron slip and brushwork  
3.75 x 22.25 x 8.5"  
RJ621





**Triangulated Bowl**  
Natural ash glaze with kaolin flashing slip  
5 x 15.5 x 15"  
RJ618



**Tea Bowl**  
Coarse shino glaze over iron  
4 x 5.5 x 5.5"  
RJ666



**Tea Bowl**  
Shino glaze and iron and natural ash  
3.5 x 5 x 5"  
RJ664



**Yunomi**  
Shino glaze and iron brush decoration  
4 x 3.75 x 3.75"  
RJ668



**Tea Bowl**  
Shino glaze and iron and natural ash  
3.5 x 4 x 4"  
RJ665



**Figure Vase**  
Kaolin glaze with red slip and natural ash  
15.5 x 6 x 4.5"  
RJ680



**Squared Vase**  
Shino glaze with impressed rope pattern and natural ash  
15 x 5.75 x 6"  
RJ678



**Yunomi**  
Nuka glaze over iron herringbone impressed rope pattern  
4.25 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
RJ671



**Yunomi**  
Nuka glaze over iron brush decoration  
4 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
RJ672





Vase  
Nuka and natural ash glaze  
16.5 x 10 x 10.5"  
RJ692





**Yunomi**  
 Nuka glaze with rope pattern iron decoration  
 4 x 3.75 x 3.75"  
 RJ645



**Yunomi**  
 Dry shino glaze with wax resist brushwork  
 4 x 3.75 x 3.75"  
 RJ648



**Yunomi**  
 Nuka glaze with iron brushwork  
 4.5 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
 RJ655



**Triple Spoon Form Dish**  
 Natural ash glaze with flashing slip  
 4 x 21.5 x 8"  
 RJ606



Figure Vase  
Copper glaze  
9.5 x 5.5 x 3.25"  
RJ679



Yunomi  
Clear glaze with iron brushwork and red overglaze  
4.25 x 3.75 x 3.75"  
RJ656



Yunomi  
Natural ash glaze with red kaolin slip and rope inlay  
4.25 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
RJ658



Yunomi  
Natural ash glaze with red kaolin slip  
4 x 3.25 x 3.25"  
RJ662



**Round Covered Box**  
Dry nuka glaze with iron  
3.5 x 4.75 x 4.75"  
RJ685



**Yunomi**  
Coarse shino glaze over iron brush decoration  
4 x 3.25 x 3.5"  
RJ675



**Figure Vase**  
Kaolin glaze with red slip and natural ash  
14 x 10.5 x 5"  
RJ683

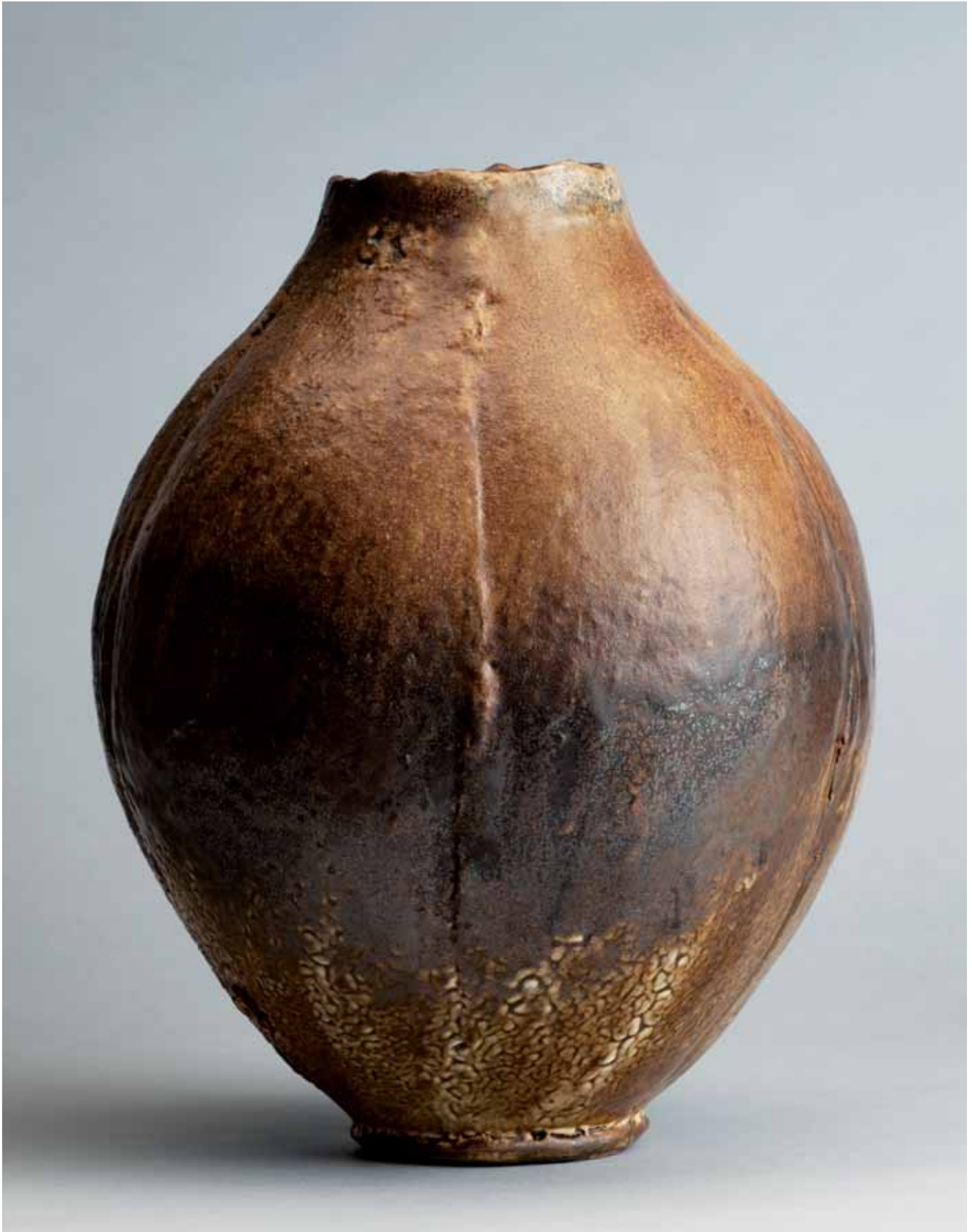


**Three Bird Candle Form**  
Kaolin glaze with red slip and natural ash  
6 x 6.5 x 4.5"  
RJ684



**Boat Form**  
Kaolin red slip with impressed rope pattern and natural ash glaze  
7.25 x 30 x 8.25"  
RJ690





Vase  
Shino with natural ash glaze  
14 x 9.5 x 9.5"  
RJ691



**Squared Lobed Vase**  
Crackle shino glaze with natural ash, iron slip and brushwork  
14 x 6.75 x 6.75"  
RJ693



**Yunomi**  
Nuka glaze and inlaid rope impression  
4 x 3.25 x 3.25"  
RJ697



**Yunomi**  
Kaolin and natural ash glaze with flashing slip rope impression  
4 x 3.25 x 3.25"  
RJ698



**Squared Lobed Vase**  
Crackle shino glaze with natural ash, iron slip and brushwork  
12 x 10.5 x 10.5"  
RJ694



**Tea Bowl**  
Coarse shino glaze with natural ash and iron brushwork  
3.5 x 4.5 x 4.5"  
RJ695



**Tea Bowl**  
Coarse shino glaze with natural ash and iron brushwork  
3.5 x 4.5 x 4.75"  
RJ696





Figure Vase  
Shino glaze with iron and natural ash  
13 x 7 x 4"  
RJ682





Oval Vase  
Dry nuka glaze over iron  
7 x 6.5 x 3.5"  
RJ681

## Randy Johnston BIOGRAPHY

**R**andy is an internationally recognized artist and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship, two Visual Artist Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and a Distinguished Teaching Award in American Arts from the James Renwick Society of the Smithsonian. He received his MFA from Southern Illinois University and a BFA in Studio Arts from the University of Minnesota where he studied with Warren MacKenzie. He also studied in Japan with Shimaoka Tatsuzo, who was a student of Shoji Hamada. Johnston has presented hundreds of lectures and guest artist presentations worldwide and is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics. He has work in numerous international museums and private collections.



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DATES: 7 December 2019 through 2 February 2020

OPENING RECEPTION: 7 December 2019 | 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

*The public is invited to attend. The artist will be present.*



Tea Bowl  
Shino and anagama natural ash glaze  
3.75 x 4.25 x 4.75"  
RJ630



Tea Bowl  
Nuka glaze  
3.25 x 5.75 x 5.5"  
RJ663



Tea Bowl  
Shino and anagama natural ash glaze  
3.5 x 4.5 x 4.25"  
RJ631



PUCKER GALLERY

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GALLERY HOURS:

Monday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM | Sunday 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Pucker Gallery is a member of the Boston Art Dealers Association and the New England Appraisers Association.

CREDITS:

*Design:* Leslie Anne Feagley | *Editors:* Jeanne Koles and Jacqueline Belfield Gertner | *Photography:* John Davenport

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Cover top:  
Ikebana Vase  
Copper glaze  
8 x 14 x 3.5"  
RJ676

Cover bottom:  
Ikebana Vase  
Copper glaze  
7 x 14.5 x 3"  
RJ677

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