

Susan Hornbostel

The studio is full of surprises and happy accidents. I have a general idea or sketch for a new platter, or tile, or container and I set out to make that happen. But clay does not necessarily conform to my plan. It has its constraints and sometimes a mind of its own. And, as I work, my hand may be inspired to take a new turn and the shape becomes slightly different to what I imagined.

Then, glazing and firing. Opening the kiln I'm expecting that the glazes will turn out just so. Oops! The glaze ran down too far, or the combination of glazes turned out ugly when previously it had turned out fine. But wait, look at that other piece. Beautiful and quite surprising to behold, not at all expected, a welcome happy accident.