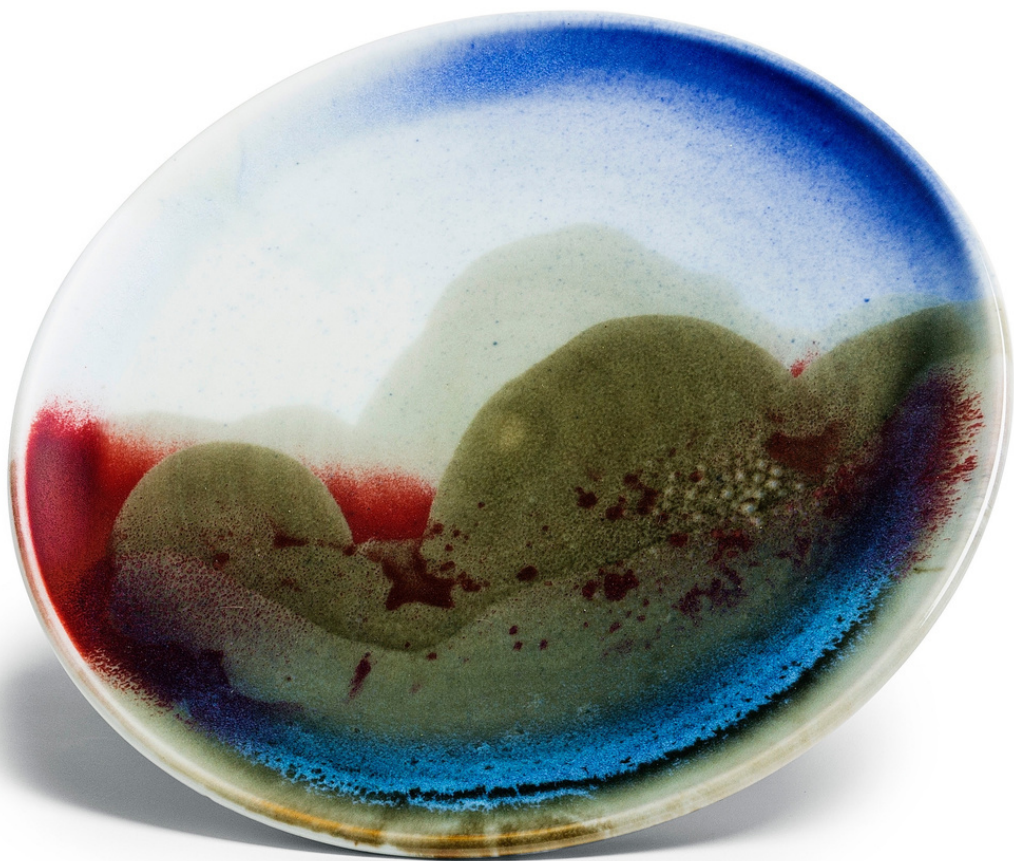


# John Eagle

## Horizons



**November 2021 -  
April 2022**

# John Eagle

## Horizons

John Eagle is an Ararat-based potter, renowned in Australia and internationally for his striking copper red glaze.

A graduate of RMIT, Eagle has worked with clay for over 40 years to develop his signature range of glazes that give the impression of a moving fluid surface. Copper red is considered to be one of the most difficult ceramic glazes to master, and Eagle has been working almost entirely in this area of glaze development for the past 20 years.

He enjoyed early success in his career when selected for inclusion in the National Gallery of Victoria exhibition, Crafts Victoria '75. Eagle's work has been recognised for a number of prestigious art prizes including the National Bicentennial Art-Craft Award for Functional Pottery, and 'Craft Mark' accreditation.

Eagle's association with Ararat began following his artist residency at Marian College in 2004, which evolved into a dedicated teaching career with the school and the wider community in the region. On moving to Ararat in 2007 Eagle and his wife, printmaker Rosemary Eagle, bought a home that was built originally for a local baker. The corrugated iron stables in the back yard became his studio.



**Cover image: *Windy Autumn Evening*** 2013/14  
wheel-thrown Southern Ice Porcelain with glazes and  
underglazes, gas-fired to 1280 - 1310 °C, d. 22cm  
© The artist and Noble Photography

***Ancient Mountains - 4*** 2014  
wheel-thrown Southern Ice Porcelain with glazes and  
underglazes, gas-fired to 1280 - 1310°C  
h.14 x w. 18cm  
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Eagle works on the potter's wheel to create his ceramic vessels, using the Australian-developed clay, Southern Ice Porcelain. The variety of forms in this exhibition - bottles, vases, cups, plates and dishes - showcase how glazes melt and flow during the kiln firing.

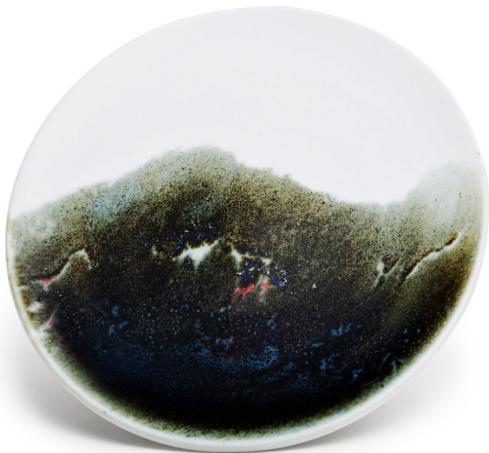
Eagle creates depth and movement in his glazes by combining techniques. The pots are first dipped into a bucket of glaze, then further layering is built up by applying more glaze with a spray gun. He will often apply more glaze after the first glaze firing and re-fire a pot two or three times to achieve the desired effect.

Key ingredients of Eagle's glazes are cobalt, iron oxide, tin oxide, rutile, titanium, and terracotta clay.

Once glazed, the pots are fired in a gas-fuelled kiln reaching temperatures between 1280 and 1310°C. During the firing, when the kiln reaches 930°C Eagle limits the amount of oxygen access to the inside of the kiln, which begins the 'reduction' process. It is this technique that reveals the spectacular colours of his glazes.

Eagle's landscape series grew from a commission of a 22-piece table setting for an international collector, giving him the opportunity to explore capturing native landscapes in the region. He views these works as painting with glaze, using pouring techniques, wax resist and spray glazing to represent the rugged, weathered landscape of the Grampians and the impact of bushfires in the region. That first landscape series was also exhibited at Ararat Gallery in 2014 before it was shipped to the USA.

*Horizons* is the culmination of 10 years of refining forms and a palette of glazes to represent the Grampians landscape.



***After the Fires* 2013**

wheel-thrown Southern Ice Porcelain with glazes and underglazes, gas-fired to 1280 - 1310°C, d. 17cm

© The artist and Noble Photography

**Copper Red Bottles** 2014

wheel-thrown Southern Ice

Porcelain with glazes and  
underglazes, gas-fired to  
1280 - 1310°C, h. 14cm

© The artist and Noble

Photography



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