A loan and selling exhibition of art in oil, watercolour, etching and wood engraving
inspired by a love of the countryside and a rural lifestyle

ANDREW HAZELDEN

I have known Andrew Hazelden for some years now, having been introduced to him by the master potter and champion of tin glaze, Alan Caiger Smith, back in the noughties. Alan was instrumental in introducing delft and majolica techniques into the post war Studio Pottery movement, and through his workshop at Aldermaston trained and inspired a number of makers. Andrew worked with Alan for some 20 years before setting up at Yarnton in 2006 following the closure of Aldermaston. He has expertly continued Alan’s interests in lustre firing and we are fortunate enough to have a number of examples of Andrew’s larger work for exhibition and sale here in December.

In 1984 after three years at Art school I went to work with the team of potters in the village of Aldermaston in Berkshire. Alan Caiger-Smith led the Aldermaston Pottery and I worked with him for 22 years learning the technique of tin-glaze and reduction fired lustre earthenware.

After the pottery at Aldermaston closed in 2006 I started the Yarnton Pottery.

CREATION:

Tin has been used as a whitener in glazes since 9th century Persia and lustre also has its roots in this period too, travelling through Spain and the rest of Europe becoming popular in England around the 18th century. As well as an electric kiln which is good for Tin-Glaze, I also have a gas fired kiln which enables me to produce reduction fired lustre. Using silver and copper this technique needs a reduction of oxygen during the firing to create the iridescent surface.

REPRESENTATION:

One of my inspirations is the medieval Animal Bestiary and its symbolism and I have also recently become interested in what I call the blessing fruits; pomegranates, fig trees, the olive tree and the vine, wheat and barley. Also I’m influenced by the four elements which is very much a potters theme, needing all the elements to make a pot possible; clay, water, fire and air.

INSPIRATION:

The technique of Tin glaze leads itself to decoration. Because of the earthenware firing temperature, the designs painted on are stable and the natural oxides show up particularly brightly on the white glaze.

The tin glazed pot is my canvas, so my designs are always of something that has some meaning from visual experiences of the past or present, but often rooted in the tin glaze designs I have seen on pots from all over the world going back to the beginning in 9th century Persia.

Following the tradition of tin glaze pottery I have done many commemorative commissions, so many of my designs are requests from visitors.

From January 2021 I will be opening Hewins Wood Pottery at Bradfield.
The new address will be: Hewins Wood Farm, Ashampstead Road, Bradfield, RG7 6DH.