

Green and Red Swirl Bowl with Stand  
2008  
Porcelain Wheel Thrown



MARK BELL

Haystack came highly recommended. I was at a New Year's Eve Party in Baltimore and asked Mary Nyburg "Where should I spend my summer learning about clay?" She replied "Haystack" as if the answer was obvious.

In 1985, I was clay monitor for John and Andrea Gill in their workshop entitled *Craft Colloquium of the Future*. I asked John what tasks he would like me to do for the workshop. His reply was "make good art". I went to work on slab constructed three sided vessels and really struggled with them. John watched quietly for two days. Nothing that I was doing was working. The third day John politely asked for my fettling knife. He made a few cuts and added a chunk of clay. With that I was on my way, I finished the vessel that day and made two others in the workshop. This was my strongest and most unique work at the time. This three-sided slab vessel made at Haystack led me to a whole new body of work which became the foundation for my Masters thesis at Arizona State University.

Haystack provided an amazing teacher and an inspiring space that lead to breakthroughs and new beginning in my craft. The natural beauty, focused time and encouragement allowed for the creative process to unfold. Mary Nyburg knew this; I was grateful for her one word answer.