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# Anticipation of Subsequent Days

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## Anticipation of Subsequent Days

Christopher Watt  
MFA Thesis Exhibition

This thesis exhibition is a presentation of my research into historic and autoethnographic analyses of social, material, and technical practices that support the production of atmospheric-fired stoneware and porcelain vessels. My work examines contemporary ceramic processes of wood-firing, salt-glazing and wood ash glazes and how they continue craft practices of historic traditions.

By critically examining the ceramic studio as a ground for material and ethnographic research, I aim to better understand the social conditions that support and produce atmospheric-fired ceramic practices in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as well as how and why we continue to create such pots. My practice-based research involves the procedures of wheel-thrown ceramics and atmospheric-firing, and the use of locally sourced glazes.

I am fascinated by the interaction of clay, sodium vapors and wood ash; how ceramic material and kiln technology have the ability to produce a ceramic surface that directly references the ceramic process. My object-based work finds inspiration from the aesthetic qualities found in the salt-glazed ceramics of 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century Western Europe, 16<sup>th</sup> century Japanese Shigaraki ceramics and the pottery of colonial America. Embedded within my work is recognition of ceramic history coupled with a reflection on contemporary life.