

# GERTRUD NATZLER

Born: Vienna, Austria 1908

Died: Los Angeles, California 1971

# OTTO NATZLER

Born: Vienna, Austria 1908

Died: Los Angeles, California 2007

Escaping the 1938 Nazi annexation of Austria, Gertrud and Otto Natzler left behind their careers as noted ceramicists and immigrated to California. There, the wife and husband team rebuilt their studio practice among a community of ceramicists who viewed themselves as artists, not craftspeople.

Each piece unites the couple's talents. Gertrud threw remarkably thin-walled vessels on a potter's wheel. She shaped the clay into smooth, curving outlines to produce abstract forms with strong proportions and visual weight. Gertrud's unique ceramics inspired Otto's innovative glazes. Through controlled experimentation with fire and playing with chemical reactions, he produced color and textural effects that evoke elements of nature such as craters, crystals, and lava.

1. *Bottle, closed form (O129)*

1968

Earthenware with orange red crater glaze

Collection of Nancy Patz

2. *Corseted vase (N656)*

1965

Earthenware with turquoise silverblack glaze

Collection of Nancy Patz

3. *Bowl with indented lip (M884)*

1963

Earthenware with Vert de Lune, bright green glaze

Collection of Nancy Patz

4. *Dimpled Bowl*

1947

Earthenware with cobalt blue glaze

Gift of Dr. and Mrs. John A. Pope, BMA 1959.78

5. *Bowl (4051)*

1944

Earthenware with gray lava glaze with turquoise overflow

Alice Morawetz Bequest Fund, BMA 1944.61

6. *Round bottle with conical neck, slight lip (L666)*

1961

Earthenware with green crystalline glaze

Collection of Nancy Patz

7. *Round bowl (O432)*

1971

Earthenware with dark "Tiger Eye" reduction glaze

Collection of Nancy Patz

This is among the last pots thrown by Gertrud during her illness in 1971. Otto later wrote of the piece, "My treatment of the glazes seems to reflect the somber mood of that period. It was my preoccupation at the time to extract the intrinsic character of a glaze through its torturous treatment in the fire. This 'tiger eye' has lost all its intensity and brilliance of color and shows instead deep melt fissures, fire marks, and skinning."