Crystalline Glazes

Crystalline Glazes, with their often stunning large crystals forming canopies of coloured snowflakes over the glaze surface, have many devotees and collectors. This glaze type, one of the most recent achievements in ceramics, was developed in England at the turn of last century, but discarded then because the high fluidity caused difficulties in firing, resulting in very high losses.
The crystals are formed by the interaction of a number of minerals with silica (the glass former) and zinc (the flux). Crystal development occurs during the cooling cycle, with a wide variety of shapes and sizes from the microcrystal, similar to adventurine, to the macrocrystal which can be up to 75 mm across.
Colour is derived from the addition of various metal oxides – gold from iron, green from copper, pink from manganese.

Ph: Int. +61 7 55333070 Aus. (07) 55333070
peter@peterwallacepottery.com.au
http://www.peterwallacepottery.com.au

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