

Paul Terrell

Sacred Shields

For the Bluecoup project I am structuring my process through the use of cobalt blue oxide with varied glazes on Mandala forms as protective shields. Carl Jung based much of his Psychological studies on archetypal symbols that represented the collective unconscious. The Mandala, Sanskrit for "Sacred Circles," is a symbol of self, wholeness is ubiquitous in world cultures.

"Everything the Power of the World does is done in a circle. The sky is round, and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball, and so are all the stars. The wind, in its greatest power, whirls. Birds make their nests in circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours. The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle. The moon does the same, and both are round. Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing, and always come back again to where they were. The life of a man is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is in everything where power moves." Black Elk, the Dakota Elder (cited in Neihardt, 1961:32-33).

