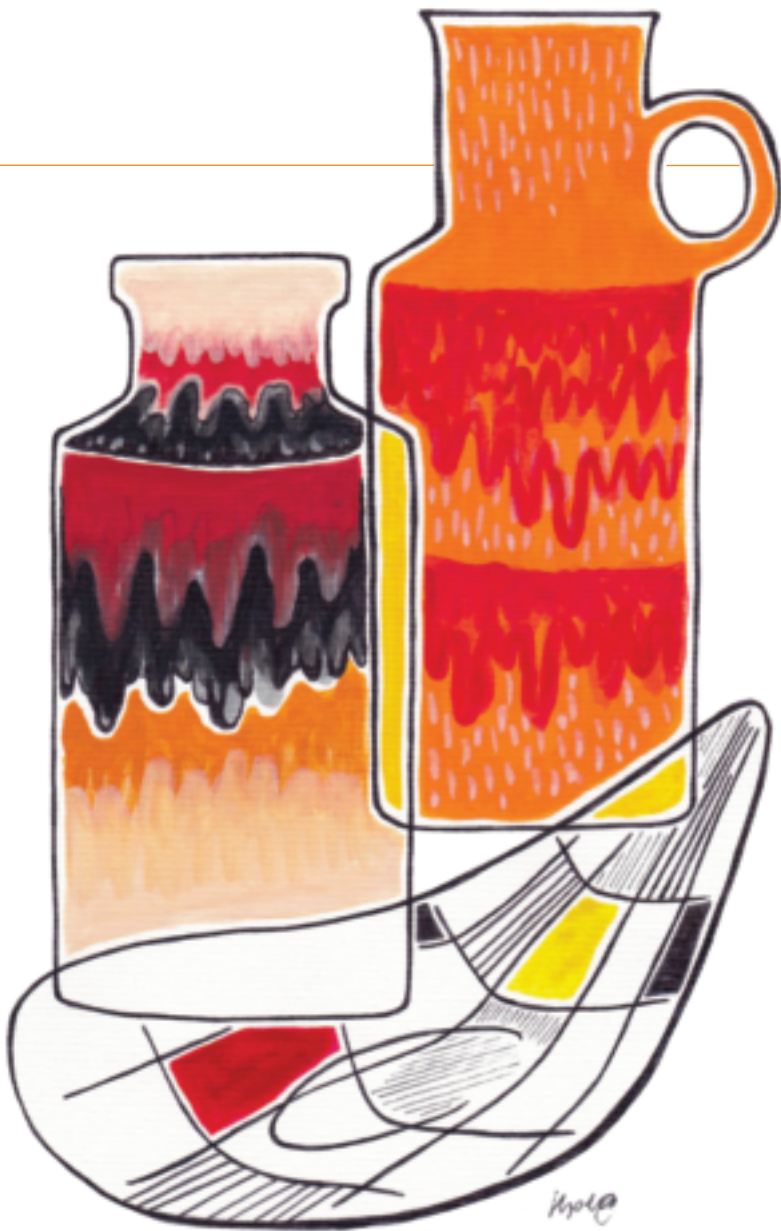


# Fat Lava



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My parents were high school teachers on American military bases in Germany most of their adult lives. In the late 1960s through the '70s, my father collected antique clocks, while my more modern-leaning mother shopped for contemporary German pottery. Along with the ticking and tocking of grandfather clocks in every room, I took my mom's pottery for granted as a child. The ceramics may have been in stylistic opposition to the old-fashioned antiques my dad collected, but the strong designs and heavy browns and reds of Fat Lava pieces fit in nicely with the dark, ornate woodwork of the clocks.

## ***Newfound appreciation***

Years later I rediscovered my mom's cache of dozens of pieces. Digging through a box of dusty planters, I realized the pots were perfect for the decor in my '50s ranch. I wanted to know more about them. They seemed to fit into the modern aesthetic and, after some research, I discovered they were part of a European mid-century ceramic revolution when West Germans were looking to the future.

Soon I realized others were also seeing these objects with fresh eyes. In the short documen-



Above: A vase in Scheurich's dramatic brown and red motif.



Right: A Joeko vase with the characteristic dripping lava glaze and a typical paper label.



Opposite: Fat Lava pieces by Bay Keramik and Scheurich.