

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Public Programme

We were able to offer talks and artist demonstrations for Billy Adams, Terry Bell Hughes and Justine Allison free of charge in the pottery in the Arts Centre. These were attended by



Billy Adams giving a demonstration at Aberystwyth Arts Centre

students in local Higher Education institutes studying Fine Art, Art and Design as well as ceramics, and were also open to members of the public. For details of upcoming talks and demonstrations, please see our website. You can also contact us to arrange a visit as an individual or with a group. These may include exhibition tours, handling sessions or access to the archive collections.

Family Programme

For 10 years we have been running family activities in the gallery relating to our exhibitions. These usually run on the last Saturday of the Month in from September until March. We also take part in Hey Clay-a Crafts Council initiative to encourage people to explore clay. Please see notices in the gallery or on our website for more information about family events.

Schools and Community Programme

We can offer schools and groups a making session in the pottery combined with exploring the exhibition in the gallery. Please contact the Creative Learning team at Aberystwyth Arts Centre for more information:

Amanda Trubshaw amj@aber.ac.uk 01970 62160

Training

Louise Chennell attended a training course on Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs (run by MALD and she also received a bursary from the Art Fund to attend a course on 'How to Curate the Moving Image' at the Whitechapel Gallery in London. Louise has also been enjoying beginner ceramic classes as part of Aberystwyth University's Lifelong Learning programme.

Grants and Awards

We have been awarded a large Programme Support grant for £22k from the Arts Council of Wales for the period 2019/2020.

Staff

In March 2018 Moira Vincentelli retired as Curator of the collections but remains as a consultant for the collections.

Louise Chennell: Curator and Archivist of Ceramics



Moira Vincentelli: Emeritus Professor in Art History & Consultant Curator of Ceramics

Neil Holland: Senior Curator of Collections.

Contacts

The website address is <http://www.ceramics-aberystwyth.com>

E-mail contact is contact@ceramics-aberystwyth.com

Please follow us on Twitter  and Facebook 

Postal address: Ceramic Archive, School of Art, Buarth Mawr, Aberystwyth University, Aberystwyth SY23 1NE

Ceramic Archive: Tel: (+0044) 01970 622192

Aberystwyth Arts Centre: Tel (+0044) 01970 623232 (for exhibition details)

School of Art: Tel (+0044) 01970 622460 (for general information, enquiries and queries).

Gallery opening hours

Monday – Wednesday 10am–5pm

Thursday – Saturday 10am – 8pm

Sunday 1pm – 5pm

Please check before visiting to avoid exhibition changeover or maintenance closures.

Acknowledgements

The Ceramic Archive is based at the School of Art, Aberystwyth University. We are grateful to the following bodies that have supported our work: Arts Council of Wales, the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, The Art Fund, The Federation of Museums & Art Galleries of Wales, Children and the Arts, The National Library of Wales.



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CERAMIC COLLECTION AND ARCHIVE *Bulletin*

School of Art, Aberystwyth University



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NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Over the last two years we have had a strong focus on artists working in Wales. Terry Bell Hughes and Billy Adams both had exhibitions showing new directions in their work in early 2018. We continued to support the *Language of Clay* series organized by Mission Gallery, Swansea, with shows by Justine Allison and Kate Haywood in early 2019. For our major summer exhibition in 2018 we invited Cardiff based ceramicist, Robyn Cove, to respond to the Michael Cardew pots in the collection. She was awarded a production grant from the Arts Council of Wales and this was her first solo show. The artist has a special relationship with Cardew's work as her mother was his cousin and her family used his jars, cups and bowls in their day-to-day life. Robyn's interest in studio ceramics was also encouraged by her uncle, Simon Fox, who has a significant collection of Michael Cardew and Wenford Bridge related pottery. The exhibition included her selection of Michael Cardew's pots from the University collection, as well as pots loaned by Simon Fox, some never having been shown in public before.

Not just for Pretty: Robyn Cove in relation to Michael Cardew

21 July – 7 October 2018



Robyn Cove describes her experience:

"For the project 'Not Just for Pretty' I made a new body of work utilising my skills as a potter working on the potter's wheel. I taught myself additional skills including large scale throwing, throwing pots in sections and the production of cooking pots which require alternative techniques to those that I had previously used. I also went to Douglas Fitch's workshop where I learnt to make moulded dishes from original Wenford Bridge moulds for the exhibition.

I gained gallery interest from some of those who visited the exhibition and have had an influx of worldwide interest in my pots; both in the pots made for the exhibition and my usual practice. I was invited to give several talks about the project. I am now a confident speaker and have found I enjoy giving talks.

I learnt a lot from making such a wide range of new pots. The project has made me a better thrower but also allowed me to explore different designs and ideas. Now a year on and I feel like it gave me a better understanding of my studio practice and how people respond to my work. It was an invaluable experience which benefited me in all these ways and more."

The success of this project has encouraged us to offer more opportunities to upcoming ceramicists in 2019/20. We are developing an incubator project asking ceramicists to come and make work in response to themes in the collection. One outcome of this will be to take part in a group exhibition in the Ceramics Gallery in the Arts Centre. This project is funded by the Arts Council of Wales. For more details please see our website or get in touch – contact information is at the back of this newsletter.

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We have also been involved with a number of other interesting projects

Toshimaru Nakamura Sound Project

Nakamura is described as one of the most important electronic composers of the 20th and 21st centuries. He used Bernard Leach's 'Pilgrim Plate' from the collection to develop an object score as a basis for an improvised musical performance which took place at Aberystwyth University and Ceredigion Museum in March 2018. We continued working with the Computer Science Department who took scans of the ceramics which will be used by experimental musicians from Wales as inspiration for a music project.



Toshimaru Nakamura sound desk with image of Bernard Leach plate for inspiration!

Great Art Quest

Billy Adams's exhibition was used as a theme of a project working with the Great Art Quest, a UK wide arts project designed by Children & the Arts with sponsorship from GAM (UK) Ltd. The project was designed to introduce young people to their local gallery. Key Stage 2 children from four local schools worked in the gallery and pottery during the exhibition period. They then continued storytelling and making art in the classroom and exhibited their work in the Arts Centre at the end of the project.



Students from Ysgol Gynradd Wirfoddol Myfenydd, Llanrhystud

Art Fund UK Sculpture Project

Art UK's Sculpture Project is a highly ambitious initiative to catalogue the UK's national sculpture collection on the Art UK website for enjoyment, learning and research. A selection of sculptural ceramics was photographed to be featured on the Art UK website. We will also participate in the Masterpieces in Schools programme, where a piece of work is taken in to a school for a day of hands-on learning.

Unlocking Our Sound Heritage

Unlocking Our Sound Heritage is a five-year project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and led by the British Library. The project is part of the 'Save Our Sounds' programme which aims to preserve and provide access to sound recordings across the UK. By the end of 2021, the National Library of Wales will have digitally preserved and provided access to over 600 unique and rare recordings from the Ceramic Archive at Aberystwyth University. These tapes include oral history, interviews, lectures and recordings at events. This will build on the work done by MA students from Information Studies at Aberystwyth University in 2015.

EXHIBITIONS

What's New?

9 September – 5 November 2017

Recent Acquisitions from the Collection including pieces purchased from the 2017 International Ceramics Festival.

Terry Bell Hughes

20 November 2017 – 2 February 2018

A touring exhibition organised by Ruthin Craft Centre featuring recent ceramics by the artist, where Terry has become more playful with domestic forms.

Billy Adams Transitions

12 February – 16 March 2018

New work by the artist with some pieces also incorporating metal structures that Billy has been learning to make with a local blacksmith.

Chaos, Flow, Meander

5 May – 15 July 2018

Work from the Ceramic Collection inspired by natural forms featuring Gordon Baldwin, Alan & Ruth Barrett Danes, Richard Slee, Geoffrey Swindell, Mary White, Mollie Winterburn & others.



Work by Gordon Baldwin and Mary White on display as part of Chaos, Flow, Meander.

Chware Teg / Fair Play

20 October – 13 January

An exhibition celebrating the past 100 years of women making and designing ceramics in Britain. Featuring work in the collection by Norah Braden, Katharine Pleydell-Bouverie, Elizabeth Fritsch, Alison Britton, Carol McNicoll, Morgen Hall, Anna Noel and others.



The Language of Clay

The Language of Clay is an ongoing project that celebrates the diversity of accomplished ceramic practice. The initiative is curated by Ceri Jones and organised by Mission Gallery in Swansea, funded by the Arts Council of Wales.

Justine Allison: Shifting Lines

2 February – 31 March 2019

Kate Haywood: Traces

13 April – 9 June 2019

Road to Discovery

22 June – 26 August 2019

Road to Discovery – Ceramics from Uzbekistan. An exhibition featuring contemporary work from some of the well-known pottery producing areas in Uzbekistan, shown alongside Welsh folk pottery from the collection. The exhibition will be available for touring from September 2019 until June 2020. Please contact us for more information about Touring Exhibitions.



The World at Our Fingertips

15 June – 13 July 2019

Old College, Aberystwyth
Open: Monday-Friday 8am-7pm, Saturdays 10am-4pm

An exhibition featuring works in the collection acquired through the International Ceramics Festival over the past 30 years. This exhibition will take place in the Gallery at Old College on the seafront of Aberystwyth.

TOURING EXHIBITIONS & LOANS

One Bizenware vase and one Satsumaware bowl went to Cardiff for the exhibition *KIZUNA: Japan | Wales | Design*.

A selection of Wenford Bridge ceramics went to the Burton Gallery, Bideford as a continuation of the Ceramic Collection *Hot Pot Project*.

Two pots, one by Reginald Wells and one by Charles Vyse went to the Tate, St. Ives exhibition *That Continuous Thing: Artists and the Ceramics Studio, 1920 – Today*.

Ceramics by Ladi Kwali, Shoji Hamada, Michael Cardew, Norah Braden, Katharine Pleydell Bouverie and Magdalene Odundo went to America to the Yale Centre for British Art exhibition *Things of Beauty Growing: British Studio Pottery*.



Tall Burnished Bottle by Magdalene Odundo (front left) on display at the Hepworth Gallery

Animal Fantasies toured to Salisbury Arts Centre in autumn 2018 and *Taking Tea* toured to Oxfordshire Museum early in 2019.

More recently we have loaned work by Gwyn Hanssen Pigott, Ladi Kwali and Magdalene Odundo for the 2019 exhibition: Magdalene Odundo: *The Journey of Things* at the Hepworth, Wakefield. The exhibition will also be shown at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, in autumn 2019.

Acquisitions

From the 2017 International Ceramics Festival we acquired work by: Eddie Curtis (UK), Ostinelli & Priest (UK), Antoinella Cimatti (Italy), Zahed Taj Eddin (Syria) and Paul Young (UK).

From our exhibitions we acquired pieces by Terry Bell Hughes, Billy Adams, Robyn Cove and Justine Alison. We also purchased pieces by Pete Bodenham and Jane Perryman. We also received a donation of 23 items from Stephen Smith – small functional pieces mainly from Welsh potteries including two pieces by John Davies.



'Merryweather' by Paul Ostinelli and Gaynor Priest, 2017