

Xhosa heritage

Southern Guild presents *iMvelaphi*, a solo exhibition by South African ceramicist Chuma Maweni, showcasing his largest collection yet of ceramic furniture, lighting and vessels, blending Xhosa pottery traditions with contemporary design. Maweni's work reflects his roots in the rural Eastern Cape, where he first sculpted clay as a child. The exhibition, (meaning 'where I come from' in isiXhosa), explores his personal and cultural journey through circular forms that echo the rhythms of life.

His intricate pieces embody a spiritual connection to ancestry, named after his family's lineage, while his practice is marked by precision and balance, creating sculptural works that resonate with both craftsmanship and deep cultural significance.

iMvelaphi is a celebration of heritage, transformation, and the continuous cycle of growth. Until 28 February 2025; southernguild.com



Sculptural impressions

Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl's *Cuts, Stripes and Knots – a ceramic retrospective*, offers an in-depth look at over 30 years of the Danish artist's work. From his early sculptural vessels to his current experimental pieces, Kaldahl challenges perceptions with his bold shapes, graphic patterns and vibrant colours.

His works evoke a wide range of interpretations, blending abstraction with organic forms, while engaging with both natural and human-made elements. This exhibition, showcasing his journey from functional ceramics to pure sculpture, is the most comprehensive presentation to date. Displayed at CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art Denmark, the show offers a unique exploration of his visionary approach to ceramic art. Until 16 March 2025; claymuseum.dk



Pottery challenge

Leach Studio: A Potter's Challenge highlights a dynamic collection of new works made in response to objects from the Leach Museum.

Each participating potter brings their unique perspective to the challenge, engaging with the Leach tradition of responding to inspiration through creativity and the evolving needs of culture. The exhibition explores how tradition shapes and informs contemporary ceramic practice, inviting visitors to witness how each piece develops from a specific object, reflecting the balance between personal creativity and cultural context. It features works by Roelof Uys, Matt Foster, Britta James, Ellie Woods (work pictured), Amy Wilson and Callum Cowie. Their interpretations bring new life to the tradition of the Leach Pottery, showcasing the adaptability and continued relevance of handmade ceramics. Until 28 December; leachpottery.com



Personal transformations

The works of four contemporary artists – Phoebe Collings-James, Rachel Kneebone, Matt J Smith, and Renee So – who each utilise clay to articulate the fluidity of identity and the transformative process of self-creation are showcased in the Foundling Museum's latest show *Self-Made: Reshaping Identities*. Kneebone's porcelain sculptures evoke states of constraint and liberation, while Smith's works reinterpret cultural histories through an LGBTQ+ perspective. So, whose *Woman Holding Cup XVI*, 2020, is pictured, blends global influences with modern forms, exploring the ways identities are shaped by diverse legacies. Collings-James' pieces, engaging with themes of hybridity and resilience, challenge traditional notions of identity, offering a contemporary take on belonging. The exhibition underscores clay's ability to embody personal and emotional transformation, with each work illustrating the artist's intimate interaction with the material. Until 1 June 2025; foundlingmuseum.org.uk