

ceramic art London



Press Release

February 2025

Ceramic Art London, a showcase for the world's best potters, returns to Olympia West this **May 9th – 11th**

Makers take inspiration from across the globe...

Europe's premier ceramics fair, Ceramic Art London, returns to Olympia in West London following on from the success of 2023 when the fair outgrew its previous venue and moved to Olympia in its 20th year. Running over three days from Friday, May 9th to Sunday, May 11th, 2025, it will showcase 120 makers from around the world. Tickets cost £20.

Makers come from all over Europe and as far afield as Canada and Korea. Even those now based in the UK often take inspiration from distant cultures or their original homeland from such varied destinations as Tokyo to Norway.

The much-celebrated talks programme is free with entry, and this year will feature themed days, curated by leading ceramic experts.

"This is a fabulous fair, where I can find new clay artists: the mix of new and established artists means I never leave empty handed. As ever, buying ceramics directly from a maker is also a very special experience."

— Preston Fitzgerald, ceramics collector and curator

↑ 'Bowl with double-walled rim' by Thomas Bohle

Makers are selected from across the world. Such is kudos of the event with makers that some take many years to

be accepted into the fair. New exhibitor, **Loraine Rutt**, who is based in London, has been applying to the fair for 13 years and is delighted to be accepted to show her distinctive palm-sized porcelain globes. Her ceramics explore how maps influence our sense of place and belonging, with clay as the tangible connection to the earth's surface. Relief maps, domestic scale plates and vessels are decorated with cartographically accurate drawings, following the tradition of narrative ceramics. Her work is in private and public collections worldwide including the Museum of London, the Maritime Museum and The Royal Geographical Society.

She will be showing a lustre piece titled *Thames water porcelain*, which measures 25 x 44 x 2cm and was produced in 2023. It is made from 'our carbon', lustre, which is a carbon negative by-product diverted from landfill and the piece charts the catchment area of the Thames with the exterior edges finished with platinum lustre.



Thames water porcelain by Loraine Rutt

Ceramic Art London is known for its diversity of forms, going beyond (but still incorporating) traditional vessels. Some makers focus on the figurative such as **Sally MacDonell**, who is continually fascinated by people. Based in her studio in Bath, she explores the human condition by modelling the female form and drawing from visual anecdotes carefully collected and stored to later emerge as figures.



Torso with winged hat by Sally MacDonell

She finds her inspiration in many places: Medieval Netherlandic wood carvings, African art, weathered buildings with textured surfaces, extravagant fashion catwalks, and women gossiping in supermarket queues. All the figures are hand built using slabs of thin clay and coils and modelled spontaneously from the inside, squeezing and pinching the clay together, before pushing out. Included on her stand will be three hand built and glazed ceramic pieces of torsos with winged hats which measure 36cm high and have a price tag of £1,800 each.



Furtivos by Erum Aamir

Ceramicists come from a host of different backgrounds. **Erum Aamir** was formerly a physicist and studied in Pakistan. Erum, who is based in Manchester, is also new to the fair and creates intricate porcelain sculptures which are inspired by the microscopic study of plant forms. Under a microscope, nature reveals its wonders differently to an artist than to a scientist. Sometimes the compositions found in the artist's imaginative interpretations bypass what is found in nature. This blurred line between 'reality' and 'created reality' is manifested in her practice. She brings a 16cm high, hand-build porcelain sculpture titled '*Furtivos*', from 2023 which retails at £825.

Ashraf Hanna is an Egyptian-born British artist, currently resident and working from his studio in Pembrokeshire, West Wales. He has had solo exhibitions across the UK as well as in France and Switzerland. His many awards won include the Public Award for best in show at the International Ceramics Fair in Oldenburg Germany and First Prize at the British Glass Biennale (Best in Show). He brings a group of three deconstructed and hand-built altered forms, with surface treatment fine coloured slips, 25x45x25, and priced at £5000.



Sculptural vases by Lucy Baxendale

Lucy Baxendale is another new exhibitor and uses surrealist automatism to create detailed drawings which become the starting point for her porcelain pieces. Based in rural Herefordshire, she is drawn to the journey from two-dimensional sketches to three-dimensional sculptures and explores the shifting relationships between the lines in her drawings as these lines transition into tangible forms. These 3-D drawings are intentionally unglazed and stained to echo the essence of a sketch. Among her pieces on show will be her sculptural vases which are inspired by automatic drawings in her sketchbook and built using pinch and slab techniques. These start at £55.



Deconstructed altered forms by Ashraf Hanna



Woven landscape by Caroline Egleston

Caroline Egleston studied ceramics in northern Italy where she absorbed the visual stimulation of Italian colour and pattern and on returning to the UK, set up her ceramic workshop, creating ceramic 'scapes' for interior and exterior spaces. Her shapes can be flat like tiles or they can play with the idea of dimension with folds, twist and turns to create movement. She says, 'my pieces dance like big, joyful daubs of paint'. This can be seen in 'Woven landscape' ceramic, which was part of the Surrey Arts Trail at RSPB Farnham Heath in 2024.



Double-walled stoneware bowl by Thomas Bohle

Multi award-winning artist, **Thomas Bohle** was born in Austria and has exhibited all over Europe as well as in Tokyo, Korea, New Zealand and UAE. He says of his work, 'by being touched and used in daily life, they can explain themselves much better than any statement from me'. He made an influential study trip to Japan in 2004 which was followed by exhibitions in Tokyo and Shanghai. He won the Bavarian State Prize in 2006 and in 2014 the Vorarlberg State Prize. He has worked in Dornbirn since 2008. For sale at the fair will be a wheel-thrown, double-walled stoneware bowl with a cobalt green glaze which measures 17.5cm deep by 23cm high.



Moon-vase by Lise Herud Braten

Lise Herud Braten is becoming increasingly popular and one to watch. Her primary interests lie in creating decorative and sculptural forms with highly textured, expressive surfaces. The work is deeply rooted in the rugged landscape she grew up in in Norway, imbuing a sense of place, timelessness and quiet beauty within each piece, as if they were found, rather than made.

She employs a variety of techniques, often manipulating, carving and altering thrown forms to create organic shapes and structures. She works in

porcelain and stoneware, applying a multi layered surface finish of oxides, slips, engobes, glazes and ash. She will showcase a variety of wheel-thrown and hand carved open vessels including a moon-vase produced in black and red stoneware clay with layered engobes, oxides and crackle glaze and dolomite glaze inside. It measures 11.5 – 20cm height x 11.5 – 24cm diameter.



Mirrored Branches with Doves by Cleo Mussi

Cleo Mussi is a renowned, maverick ceramic artist who creates spectacular works using reclaimed tableware and ornaments. Her career has evolved over the last 35 years encompassing one-off artworks for exhibitions, themed touring national shows as well as commissions for hospitals, schools, arts centres and public spaces including the BBC Asian network in Leicester and the John Lewis partnership in Solihull. She recently completed a life size portrait of Greta Thunberg for the Fries International Museum of Ceramics in the Netherlands and in 2022 she was selected as an award artist for the British Ceramics Biennial in Stoke

on Trent. She will showing a direct mosaic from reclaimed ceramic on sustainably sourced plywood titled, *Mirrored Branches with Doves* that measures 80cm x 38 x 2.5cm and retails at £990.



Capitalism is King by Rich Miller

Rich Miller is known to many as a judge on the popular Channel 4 'Great Pottery Throwdown'. He has worked in ceramics for over 20 years. His current work makes reference to historical design patterns and draws on themes of British colonialism and the way in which the UK has been enriched by an eclectic mix of cultural styles. Migration has brought with it a rich source of influences, images and narratives associated with the colonies, and his personal experiences as a British citizen form the core influence of his ceramics practice. Among his pieces is a thrown and hand-built crown on press moulded bricks with a white zircon glaze which is titled *Capitalism is King* and is priced at £2,000.

Information

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Tickets are now on sale via
tickettailor.com

For more information visit
ceramicartlondon.com

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Address

Kensington Olympia West, 12 Blythe Rd, London
W14 8UX

Opening Hours

Friday - 10am to 6pm

Saturday - 10am to 6pm

Sunday - 10am to 5pm

Ticket Prices

£20 — full price daily ticket

£14 — concessions (for under 25 years)

£48 — three-day ticket

Under 16s go free (booking required)

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