

# British Ceramics Biennial 2011 Stoke-on-Trent

Press Release

11 November 2011

**For immediate release**

## **Winner of first FRESH bursary announced**

Ceramic artist Lawrence Epps was last night, 10 November, awarded the first FRESH bursary at the British Ceramics Biennial. He was selected as winner from 40 other emerging artists showing their work in FRESH, one of the flagship exhibitions of the British Ceramics Biennial co-curated by NACHE (National Association for Ceramics in Higher Education) and BCB.

This unique bursary has been provided by Emma Bridgewater and EKWC, and will provide Epps with a three-month residency opportunity at EKWC, the internationally renowned ceramics centre in The Netherlands. The centre is a creative laboratory for artists, designers and architects to explore the technical and artistic possibilities of ceramics and is a unique environment enabling cultural and artistic exchange across disciplines.

Epps will use his time at the EKWC residency to develop his practice technically, creatively and professionally, building on the success of his 'Human Resources' installation of at the FRESH exhibition.

Presenting the winner with his £5,000 bursary, co-owner of Emma Bridgewater pottery, Matthew Rice said: *"Emma and I have a long established relationship with local colleges and the University and are keen to support and nurture young creative talent."*

*"The inspirational new work that we have seen at the Fresh exhibition brings an exciting dimension to ceramic design and we are delighted to give some financial and educational support to someone with a bright future and a true spark of originality."*

FRESH, a showcase of the very best ceramics graduates from the UK, is on show at the original Spode factory site until 13 November 2011.

**Ends**

For more press information, please contact Iliana Taliotis or Matt Railton at Colman Getty on 020 7631 2666 or [iliana@colmangetty.co.uk](mailto:iliana@colmangetty.co.uk)



## Notes to editors

### About the British Ceramics Biennial

The British Ceramics Biennial is a prestigious cultural event taking place in Stoke-on-Trent from 30 September to 13 November 2011. This six-week long festival of exhibitions, events and activities embraces the heritage of the Potteries as the home of British ceramics, and celebrates the city's creative edge as an international centre for excellence in contemporary ceramics.

The British Ceramics Biennial launched in 2009, is a five-year initiative of residencies, fellowships, commissions, education and enterprise projects from 2009 to 2013 with a major festival every two years. BCB is intended to be a catalyst for regeneration in the region and to create a platform for the best in current ceramic design, both nationally and internationally. The Biennial draws on the historical strengths of the past in championing new future directions for the city.

The Biennial works in partnership with organisations and individuals in the museums, cultural industry, education, community and voluntary sectors across the city in the development and delivery of projects with a particular focus on public engagement.

The festival and supporting BCB Projects programme will not only highlight and raise the profile of the many ceramics industries still working in Stoke-on-Trent, but will also create commissioning and exhibition opportunities for local ceramic artists as well as national and international artists.

### British Ceramics Biennial funders:

The British Ceramics Biennial Ltd is funded by Stoke City Council, Arts Council England and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

