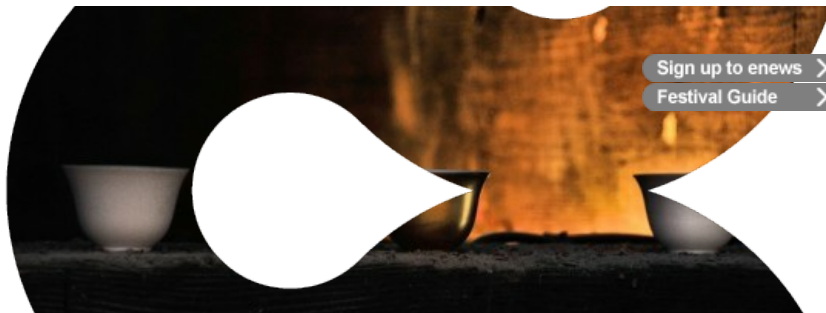




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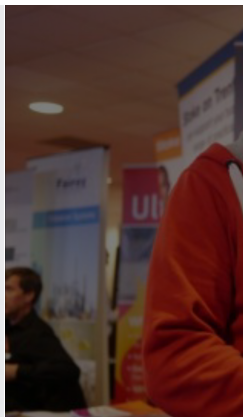
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2011 festival closes

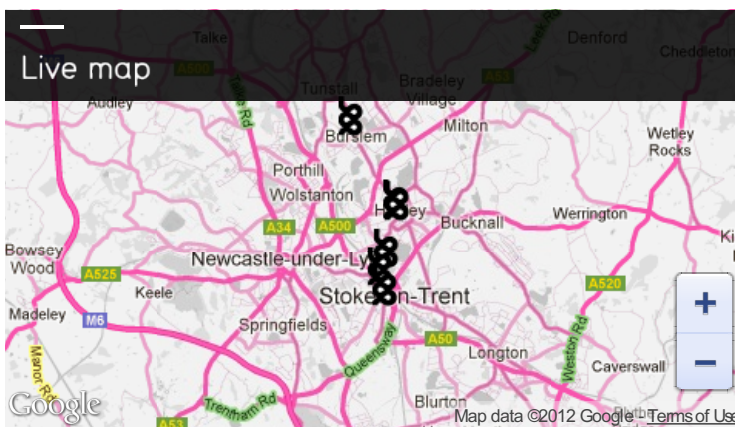
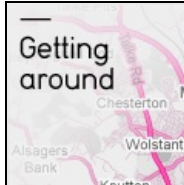
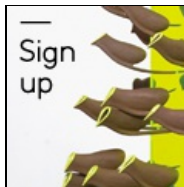
The festival has officially closed for 2011, but you can keep up with the latest news via our newsletter. (Image: Merete Rasmussen, Award 2011 exhibition)



Limited edition for BCB



2011 Award winner!



October



M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	01	02	03	04

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Blogs & Tweets

Blog
yummy bowls
25 October

Blog
Manchester Craft and Design Centre celebrates its 30th anniversary
25 October

Blog
yummy bowls
25 October

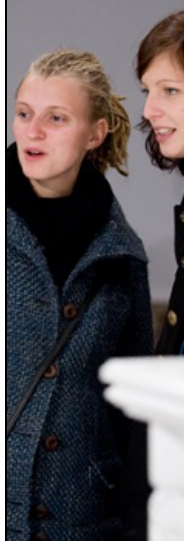
Tweet
Monday MithMimes to @jansclost anakronistal localpickers guyminguy withbook @cbards IGGACHat @curent time_maureen @Lori_Coats @GothicGlass - 23 October

Blog
Creative People and Places: Arts Council England podcast
22 October

Tweet
Off to sunny Stoke to see some of our sponsors @BCBFestival2013 with talk of hi-tech innovation in ceramics and exhibitions @palmerquard - 18 October

Tweet
In Stoke to find new programme manager for @BCBFestival. Really strong interview line up so might need extra coffee for adjudication. @palmerquard - 18 October

Tweet
RT @BCBFestival: RT @BCBFestival: great day @BCBFestival today in #stoke, fab programme coming together for next year's festival @Lettingintlight - 13 October



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Spode®

Emma Bridgewater
Feels like home



JOHNSON-TILES



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No events found.

October



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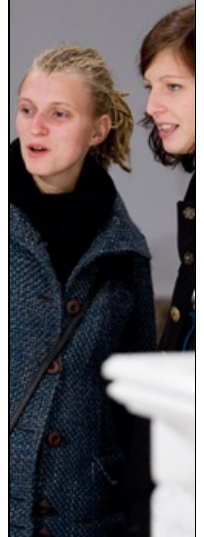
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Venues

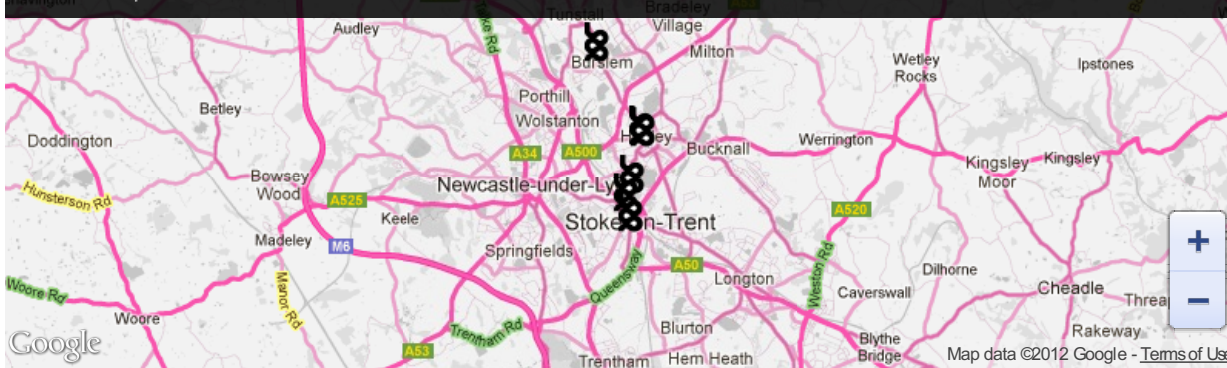
Event type

Special events

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Tea and Cake



Events

Book your tickets

The Factory Refectory

Brunch, Lunch & Afternoon teas at BCB 2011

With so many great exhibitions to see at the original Spode site, you'll be needing a nice cup of tea. Or perhaps you want to treat yourself to a classic afternoon tea experience.

That's exactly what we'll offer for the duration of the festival. Visit our specially created teashop - Factory Refectory - and enjoy Afternoon Tea in the dramatic and unique surroundings of the original Spode site, nestled amongst the festival's stunning exhibitions.

The Factory Refectory is no ordinary tearoom, set up and run by tea experts dedicated to bringing you the best cuppa alongside extraordinary selections of ludicrously tempting homemade cakes and exquisite sandwiches. And not forgetting the city's unique gastronomic speciality - oatcakes will be available too.

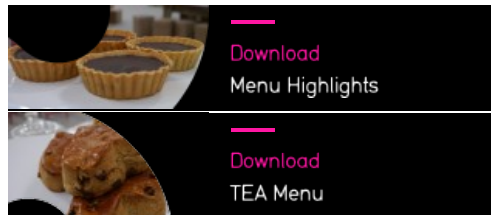
Afternoon Tea is available daily and comes with a loose-leaf tea of your choice each alongside finger sandwiches, scone and petit fours, which are all freshly baked. But at weekends you can also have Afternoon Tea served with a bottle of chilled top quality Italian Prosecco.

Afternoon Tea £12.95/person
A fizzy, boozy Afternoon Tea £40 for two

To book your Afternoon Tea contact the Tourist Information Centre on 01782 236000 or [book on-line](#). But you can also just turn up!

The Factory Refectory is open Tuesday - Friday 11am - 4pm,
Saturday & Sunday 12 noon - 5pm.

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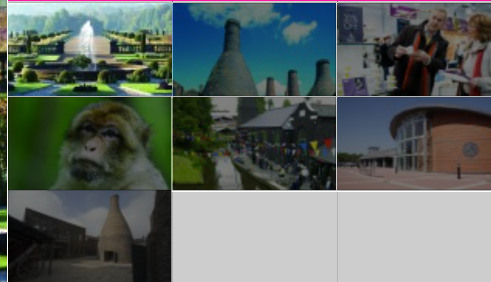
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Trentham Gardens



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Enjoy Stoke-on-Trent

Getting all fired up in The Potteries

The City fondly known as [The Potteries](#) boasts visitor centres, world class ceramic museums including the Wedgwood Museum which has just gained UNESCO status, factory tours and over 25 pottery factory shops.

Plus excellent leisure and entertainment facilities including nearby Alton Towers, and the unique Trentham Monkey Forest and 800 acre [Trentham Estate](#), [Gladstone Pottery Museum](#), [The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery](#) and [Ford Green Hall](#) all have a full and varied programme of events to enjoy. Whilst Trentham Estate has some great events and behind the scenes garden tours in the Italian gardens. There are some great events at [Shugborough](#) too and some of the [factory shops](#) offer big sales throughout the year.

For more information, suggested city itineraries and to book your stay use the links on this page or visit the Tourist Information Centre on arrival.

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Festival Offers

We've got some great Biennial 2011 festival offers from local accommodation providers, attractions and factory shops.

Accommodation

The following are providing these special rates throughout the festival:

Stockton Brook Waterworks Self Catering Accommodation

Offer: A basket of local foods including a bottle of wine and a lovely home made cake when you book to stay. You can just arrive and feel at home.

Foxtwood Cottages

Offer: A two bedroom cottage sleeping 4 for a 3 night break £228, or for 2 nights £200.

Best Western Plus Stoke-on-Trent Moat House

Offer: £77 B&B two night stay.

The Lodge B&B

Offer: A minimum 2 night break at £50 per room per night based on 2 people sharing.

Holiday Inn Stoke-on-Trent

Offer: A complimentary bottle of wine in the room on arrival.

Graythwaite Guest House

Offer: A minimum 2 night break at £60.00 per night based on two people sharing or £30.00 per night for single person in a standard single room.

Best Western Manor House Hotel

Offer: A minimum 2 night break at £60 per room per night based on 2 people sharing.

The Manor at Cheadle is also offering a special rate up to 4 November.

To book accommodation contact the Tourist Information Centre on 01782 236000 or email: stoke.tic@stoke.gov.uk and quote BCB offer.

Many of the factory shops and attractions are also offering special discounts throughout the festival -

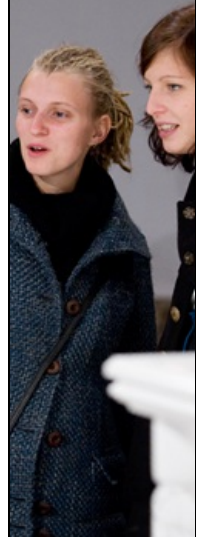
Royal Stafford/Poole Pottery Retail Outlet, Trentham Gardens, Portmeirion Shops, Dudson Museum, Dudson Factory Outlet, Moorcroft Heritage Visitor Centre, Moorcroft Factory Shop, Gladstone Pottery Museum.

[Festival offers and discount vouchers](#)

Festival Offers



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Getting Around

How to find your way to & round the city

Getting around

By car

For the original Spode site follow signs for Stoke & Spode from the A500. These signs will take you to the Elenora Street side of the site. The best access is afforded via Kingsway, which has a car park. The satnav postcode for this car park is **ST4 1JH**.

For the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery follow signs for City Centre or Cultural Quarter from the A500.

By train

The nearest train station for the two main festival hubs - the original Spode factory site in Stoke and at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery and AirSpace Gallery in the city centre is Stoke-on-Trent. The station is only about a 5 minute walk from the original Spode site and about a 30 minute walk from the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery. You can also catch the 23 & 23a bus, which runs every 10 minutes from outside the station and takes you to just outside the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery.

By bus

The route for bus numbers 23 & 23a is Stoke town centre – Stoke rail station – College Road – City Centre (Hanley) and so is perfect for all BCB venues. The service operates every 10 minutes and takes 15 minutes from Stoke to the City Centre (Hanley).

The closest set down points for each venue are:

Potteries Museum & Art Gallery – Stop L on Broad Street
Stoke-on-Trent station – outside the station
Original Spode Site – Stop X on Glebe Street

The closest pick up points for each venue are:

Potteries Museum & Art Gallery – Stop Z on Bethesda Street
Stoke-on-Trent station – Stop F on Station Road (this takes you to Hanley)
Original Spode Site – Stop L on Elenora Street

Ask for a **PlusBus** ticket on top of your rail ticket for unlimited travel in the City and Newcastle.

By Bike

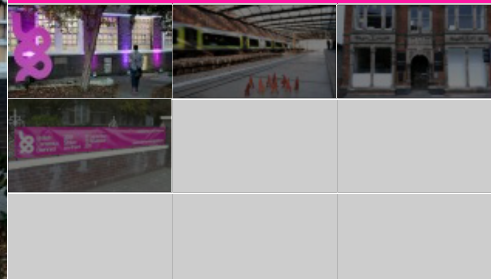
The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery is conveniently located on National Cycle Network 5 (NCN 5) and cycle parking is located either side of the main entrance to the museum.

Parking

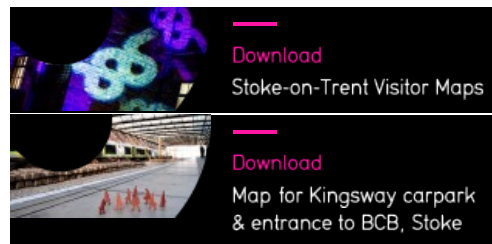
The closest car park for the original Spode site is on Kingsway. This pay and display carpark is just across the road from the BCB entrance to the original Spode site. The postcode for Kingsway is ST4 1JH.

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery has no on-site parking, however there are several car parks within a short walking distance of the museum and parking meters on Bethesda Street and Warner Street. See the map for locations.

The festival appears in some surprising places



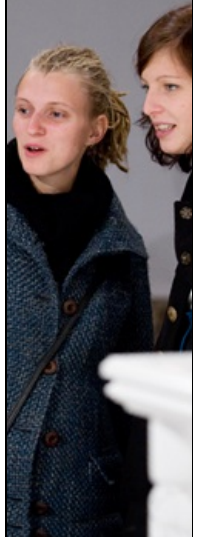
Downloads



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volunteer



Getting to the city

Air

Well over 100 airlines fly into regional airports within a one hour transfer, so for more information about flights and transfer rail links to Stoke-on-Trent, visit Manchester International Airport, Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Birmingham Airport and East Midlands Airport.

Train

Stoke-on-Trent is a major intercity rail route, directly linked to Manchester (35 minutes), Birmingham (45 minutes) and London (90 minutes). [Virgin Trains](#) and Cross Country operate high-speed trains. Local and regional services are provided by Northern Rail and London Midland. For information on tickets and timetables visit National Rail.

Road

The M6 motorway connects into the city through major dual-carriageways. Visit Google Maps, to find how to get to the festival from where you are.



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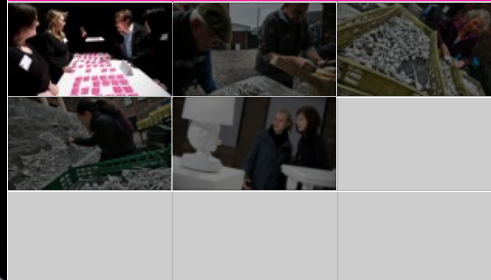
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Volunteering



Become
a BCB
volunteer

Volunteer Opportunities

Please apply now to volunteer

We're were looking for up to 50 volunteers to help us out with the 2011 festival - and we had a great response. Some of the opportunities are listed below - we'll want to do it all again in 2013.

"I really loved meeting and greeting the wide variety of people who visited the exhibition and discussing the exhibits and their experience with them. The cake and hot chocolate were a bit fab too."

Volunteer, 2011

In 2009 we had a great team of volunteers working in a variety of roles at a number of different venues. This year we only need volunteers to work at the former Spode factory site where many of the exhibitions and events will take place.

We need volunteers to cover a range of different roles primarily from September through to November, but there are some opportunities starting in July. Ideally you will be available to cover a number of sessions per week, particularly during the festival (each session is 4 hours). Training and induction will be provided as well as BCB branded vests. Reasonable travel expenses will be covered.

The following volunteer roles are available:

Exhibition Assistants 15 September – 18 November

General installation activity taking place at the former Spode factory site. Volunteers will be required to work with the BCB technician and artists to clear sites and install exhibitions.

Marketing & Press Assistants 25 July – 18 November

Support the marketing team in the delivery of marketing activity including print distribution across Stoke-on-Trent, venue liaison, inputting data, sending out information to the public, uploading information to the website, asking the public to complete questionnaires at venues. Also to assist the BCB's press team: Colman Getty and Stoke City Council's Press Officer in supporting the Press Preview and journalist visits.

Front of House Assistants 29 September – 13 November

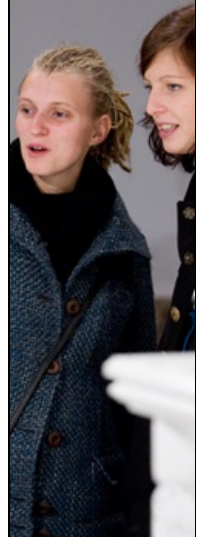
Supporting the festival team in the delivery of the visitor welcome and stewarding at the former Spode factory site, and across the three Open Weekends: 1-2 October, 22-23 October, 12-13 November. Tasks will include helping with the set up of the opening night event (and any other relevant events), guiding visitors around the site, handing out information and talking to the public about all aspects of the Biennial.

Invigilators 30 September – 13 November

Invigilators are required to oversee several BCB exhibitions from 10am-6pm daily. Volunteers can be rotated around different parts of the former Spode factory site. Responsibilities will include: monitoring daily visitor numbers, meeting and greeting the public, answering queries, telling them about the BCB, ensuring safety of artworks,



I want to volunteer
Application Form



small amount of weekly exhibition maintenance.

If you are interested in applying to become a volunteer, please fill in and submit the volunteer application form. We will be in touch with you to arrange a time to meet for an informal interview.



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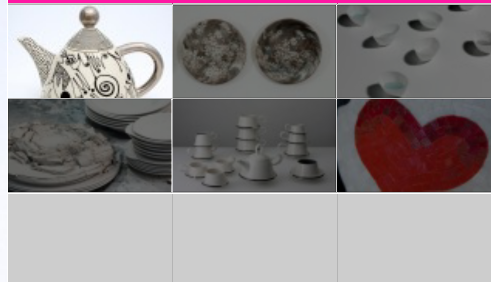
Artist Opportunities

Artists' Studio

Support Us



Calligraphy Teapot, Mark Dally Ceramics



Artist Opportunities

Be part of the Biennial

For 2011, artists have been invited to submit ideas and proposals to get involved, to create new work that will be showcased in new, existing and unusual buildings and locations across the City, with a particular emphasis on the former Spode factory site in Stoke town.

OPEN SHELF

Through Open Shelf we want to showcase a range of ceramics: traditional, new to the industry, well-established, soon to be discovered, popular, familiar or never seen before.

If you are a designer, maker or a ceramics company practising in the West Midlands region, we would like you to be involved.

Criteria

- Functional ceramics – pieces must be functional and relate to eating, serving, and/or preparing food
- You must be currently practicing (living/working) in the West Midlands
- Work must have been produced in the last two years
- You can submit up to 5 pieces for exhibition and display (not all 5 pieces will necessarily be included)

Download an information pack for your registration form and important exhibition information. Email or send your completed registration form as soon as possible as places will be limited.

FRESH

What is Fresh?

Fresh is

- A major event in the BCB calendar.
- An exhibition of new ceramic work by recent graduates of UK universities.
- Organised by the British Ceramics Biennial BCB and the National Association of Ceramics in Higher Education NACHE

Fresh will

- Promote the high quality work of graduates to a professional and public audience through a combination of visitors to the show, symposium, journal articles and reviews, an illustrated catalogue.
- Represent the range of activity of graduates within the field, which is anticipated to include work from across the ceramic spectrum, studio pottery, tableware and industrial design, figurative and abstract sculpture, installation, etc.
- Provide an invaluable launch pad for the exhibitors – through exposure, networking opportunities, BCB promotion and the connected NACHE forum.

Fresh exhibition

Open Shelf

Information Pack

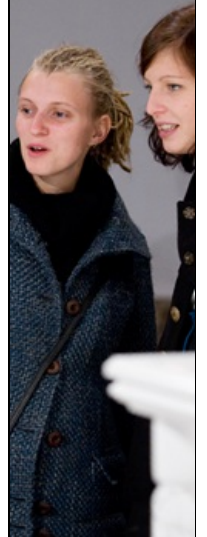
I'm an artist

Fresh Application

I'm an artist

Award Application

Become
a BCB
volunteer



Venue:

BCB Exhibition Space, former Spode factory site, Stoke Town, Stoke-on-Trent.

Dates:

30 September - 13 November 2011

Selectors and Curators:

BCB Directors, with NACHE executive

Fresh applications

All applicants must be graduates of UK higher education universities and colleges who graduated in 2010 or 2011. Applications will be considered from individuals whose primary medium is clay and whose work is based on the exploration of ceramic process.

How to apply

Download the application form.

Artists interested in this opportunity should complete the application form below and send to:

Barney Hare Duke, Co-Director, BCB at barney@britishceramicsbiennial.com, or by post to BCB Ltd., Sutherland Institute, Lightwood Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 5HY.

Deadline for this opportunity has now passed for 2011.

EXPLORE – RESEARCH RESPONSES

In the spirit of this year's theme of exploration, BCB is offering five small commissions for artists to research and make a response to Stoke-on-Trent, its heritage, its communities and its industry; to explore, challenge and work with its materials, processes and products.

We are looking for artists to engage with the City from July 2011, with a view to their outcomes being presented within the Biennial programme on the former Spode site from October 2011.

The deadline for this opportunity has now passed for 2011.

AWARD

The centrepiece of the festival programme is the BCB Ceramic Awards exhibition.

BCB has invited applications from across all sectors of the industry for the BCB Awards 2011 – a prestigious scheme that celebrates the energy and innovation of contemporary British ceramics, in the context of its long history in Stoke-on-Trent. The BCB Awards will focus on creativity, innovation and achievement, with a total cash award of £10,000, across three categories:

1. Art: one-off ceramics, ideas, installations
2. Craft: studio production
3. Design: ceramic design for production

The deadline for this opportunity has now passed for 2011.



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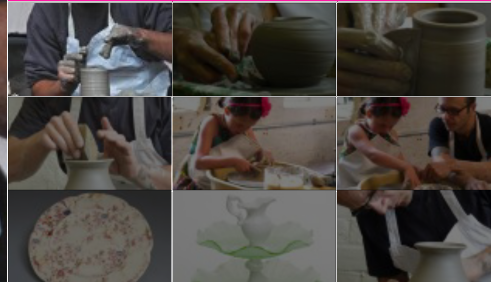
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Artists' Studio

Support Us



Simon Stamatiou, Studio Manager, demonstrating



Artists' Studio

Original Spode Factory Site

30 September - 13 November 2011

10am - 5pm Tuesday - Saturday, 12 - 5pm Sunday. Closed Monday.

Using the Scrapbank (Resources collected from the original Spode site) the BCB team and some of the exhibiting artists will be running a series of workshops in the artists' studio that will give visitors the opportunity to learn about a range of different ceramic processes, see ceramic artists/designer makers in action as well as have a go themselves.

BOOK A SLOT - THROW A POT (suitable for all ages)

Every Saturday during Biennial, 2pm - 5pm, FREE

BCB Artists' Studio Manager, Simon Stamatiou will be on hand to help you have a go on a potters wheel.

To book: chloe@britishceramicsbiennial.com 01782 377417

RE-DESIGN

Sunday 2 October, 12 noon - 2pm

Sunday 23 October, 12 noon - 2pm - cancelled

Join us for an afternoon of design, learn how to make your own ceramic transfer. You will work with BCB Studio Manager Simon Stamatiou to design and produce a decorative transfer for your very own BCB mug. Be inspired by traditional Spode designs, re-cycle found patterns and you can even bring along your own photographs or images to be included in your design.

Cost: £15

BOOK TICKETS

UP-CYCLE PLATES (suitable for all ages)

Saturday 5 October 2011, 10am - 5pm, FREE

Saturday 22 October 2011, 10am - 5pm, FREE

Join FRESH artist Michelle Taylor (22 October) and the BCB team (05 October) to up-cycle and re-design your very own Spode inspired plate to add to our 'Wall of Plates' which will be on display throughout the Biennial.

No booking required

A SPODE AFTERNOON

Thursday 6 October, 3 - 5pm, FREE

An opportunity for people to come and learn about the history of Spode, share memories of Spode as well as hear about the future of the site and the success of the Spode brand today as part of the Portmeirion Group here in Stoke-on-Trent. Former workers from the Original Spode Factory Site will be on hand to share their memories of working at the factory and there will also be an opportunity to meet and hear from local photographers Chris Huthwaite and Alex Severn who have been photographing the site and its former workers.

Artists' Studio events



Artists' Studio
30 September 2011

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@anakronistical
@localpickers
@guymainguy
@witchbook @bcbart
@JGGChat @current
@time_maureen
@Lori_Coats
@GothicGlass - 23
October

Tweet

Off to sunny
some of our
@BCBfestival
talk of hi-tec
ceramics and
@palmersqu
October

Events

Book your
tickets



We want the afternoon to be a celebration of Spode past, present and future and a chance to reflect on its legacy in Stoke.

To book: chloe@britishceramicsbiennial.com 01782 377417

FROM EARTH TO TABLE WITH B-ARTS (suitable for all ages)

Create a dinner service with a difference.

Sunday 9 October, 12 noon - 5pm, FREE

Saturday 15 October, 10am - 5pm, FREE

Sunday 16 October, 12 noon - 5pm, FREE

B arts have commissioned ceramicist, printmaker and sculptor Martin Brockman, to create 12 large decorative seasonal platters, using moulding and slip decoration techniques and he needs your help.

These relaxed and enjoyable sessions are a great for folks who want to stay all day and concentrate on decorative detail or for people who want to just drop by for an hour or so.

All the beautiful work produced will be part of HARVEST – a community feasting event to be held in Northwood Park on 28th & 29th October 2011. For full event details check out the [B arts](#) website

Find out more about [Martin's work](#) and the project he is undertaking for B arts.

To book: chloe@britishceramicsbiennial.com 01782 377417

RE-CYLE WARE (suitable for all ages)

Saturday 22 October 2011, 10am - 5pm, FREE

Join FRESH artist Angie Thirkell and the BCB team to help create a range of Spode inspired, up-cycled tableware. Using a range of second hand tableware you can let your imagination go wild.

No booking required

RE-MOULD

Saturday 29 October, 10am – 12pm

Join us for an afternoon of making. Inspired by the mould store at the original Spode factory site you will be able to use a variety of moulds to cast and then alter pieces of tableware to create your very own up-cycled ware. What you make is only limited by your imagination.

Cost: £15

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Want to support BCB?

We made a great start in our inaugural 2009, and we would like to acknowledge the support of individuals and businesses, both local and national, that helped to make the 2009 event such a success. We would invited new partners to join in making the second Biennial an even bigger success, alongside the many supporters from 2009 who we welcomed back for 2011. We're now looking to 2013!

Tristram Hunt, MP for Stoke-on-Trent: *'Stoke-on-Trent is a world famous city with a rich and diverse history. One of my priorities is to see Stoke Town regenerated, and the British Ceramics Biennial has an important part to play in this. I am hugely excited about the 2011 programme and how this cultural festival will benefit the city and the people who live here.'*

For further information on how you can support and get involved with British Ceramics Biennial, and available sponsorship opportunities, please contact Iain Cartwright, BCB General Manager on 01782 294634 or email info@britishceramicsbiennial.com. We would be delighted to discuss how a bespoke package of benefits can be tailored for your needs. Come and join us and experience one of the most unique and important festivals in the UK.



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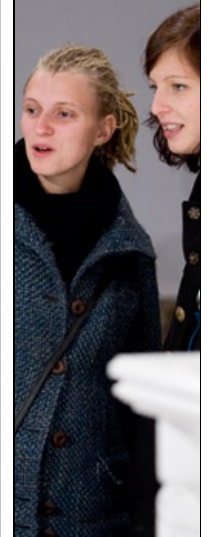
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Off to sunny Stoke to see some of our sponsors @BCBfestival2013 with talk of hi-lac innovation in ceramics and exhibitions @palmersquared - 16 October

Tweet
In Stoke to find new programme manager for @BCBfestival. Really strong interview line up, so might need extra coffee for adjudication. @palmersquared - 16 October



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About the British Ceramics Biennial 2011

BCB showcases excellence and the best of contemporary practice by makers and artists across the UK, building significant partnerships with other major festivals and centres for ceramic research, and making significant European partnerships.

At the heart of the British Ceramics Biennial is **AWARD** at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, a major exhibition of work by artists, potters and designers working at the creative leading edge of contemporary ceramics practice. From the 28 finalists exhibited, one winner will be awarded a £10,000 prize. We're delighted to welcome **Spode**, part of the **Portmeirion Group**, as the sponsor of this Award, and also the Spode Room, making them our leading sponsor partner in 2011.

On the historic listed site of the original Spode Pottery factory in Stoke Town, **FRESH** will showcase the work of 40 recent UK graduates. **FRESH** will also highlight the Crafts Council's "Firing Up" project to re-invigorate the learning of ceramics in secondary schools. **ReFRESH** will showcase examples of ground-breaking ceramic research.

One of the largest shop floors at the original Spode site will be the home of **A Great Wall**. This large-scale installation will feature tableware to technical ceramics, highlighting the diversity, innovation and creativity of the UK ceramic industry.

A new body of work by acclaimed ceramic artist **Phil Eglin**, **Mould Store** will see the artist re-use and reclaim the discarded ceramic moulds from the nine remaining stores at the original Spode site. Eglin joins five other artists who will create specific responses to the factory buildings to allow visitors to explore the ten-acre site.

The work of ten international artists including Tony Cragg, Hella Jongerius, Betty Woodman and Anne Ausioos, produced during residencies at the European Ceramics Work Centre, will be brought to Stoke-on-Trent for **Sunday Morning @EKWC**. The exhibition is co-curated by Neil Brownsword, an internationally acclaimed artist from Stoke-on-Trent and winner of the overall 2009 BCB Award.

OPEN will see the area's museums, galleries and ceramic industries with their own programme across three weekends during the festival.

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October

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Off to sunny Stoke to
see some of our
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@BCBfestival2013
with talk of in-her-
innovation in ceramics
and exhibitions
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18 October

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In Stoke to find new
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for @BCBfestival.
Really strong interview
line up, so might need
extra coffee for
adjudication.
@palmerisquared -
18 October



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BCB 2011



Biennial a major success for Stoke-on-Trent

07 March 2012

The British Ceramics Biennial announces its evaluation findings today (7 March), proving that the Biennial was a major success for Stoke-on-Trent.

Findings from independent research conducted by Audiences Central and Earthen Lamp, using Cultural Olympiad West Midlands's newly developed Economic Impact Toolkit for events and activities, show that last year's Festival:

- Attracted 35,000 visitors to the three main festival venues in Stoke-on-Trent
- Generated £2.08m worth of economic activity in the city
- Achieved approx £1.2m worth of media coverage
- Enabled over 700 adults and over 200 schoolchildren to participate in workshops and activities

Cllr Mark Meredith, cabinet member for economic development for Stoke-on-Trent City Council stated:

"The BCB plays a key role in emphasising and maintaining Stoke-on-Trent's ceramic connections. It is encouraging to see that the biennial has gone from strength to strength this year. It not only has a positive impact on the economic growth of the city as visitor figures rise but also helps to showcase the city's pottery connections to a wider audience."

[Read more](#)



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Biennial a major success...
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11 November 2011

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20 October 2011

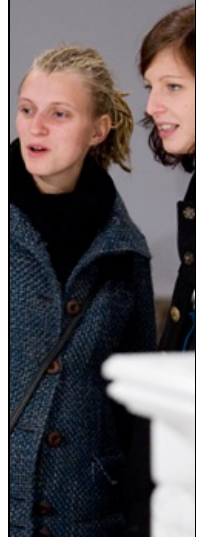
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17 October 2011

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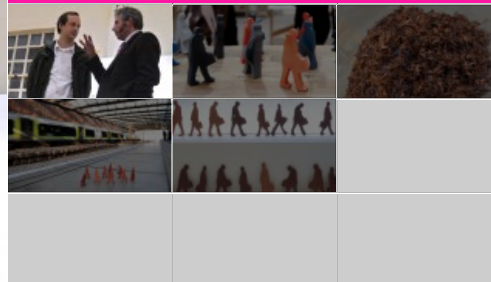
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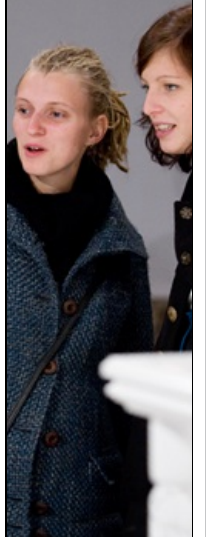
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Lawrence Epps and Matthew Rice,
Managing Director of Emma Bridgewater



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Winner of first FRESH bursary announced

11 November 2011

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.

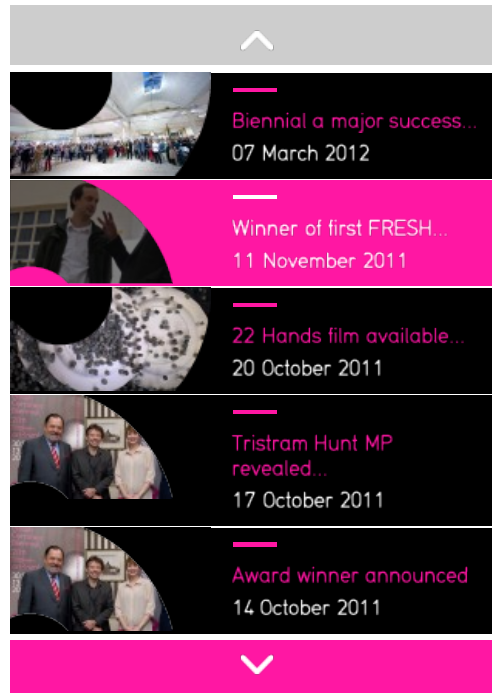
This unique bursary has been provided by Emma Bridgewater and EKWC, and will provide Lawrence with a three-month residency opportunity at EKWC, the internationally renowned ceramics centre in The Netherlands. Lawrence, who was surprised and delighted to receive the prize, has said he will use his time at the EKWC to develop his practice technically, creatively and professionally, building on the success of his 'Human Resources' installation at the FRESH exhibition.



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22 Hands, 2011. Dir. Johnny Magee



22 Hands film available on YouTube

20 October 2011

Johnny Magee's 2011 documentary, commissioned by BCB in partnership with the Portmeirion Group, provides an artist's glimpse into the manufacturing process. It is showing at the original Spode factory site as part of the Biennial, but you can also see it now on [YouTube](#).

The film focuses on the making of Spode's Blue Italian taking place at Portmeirion Group's factory in Stoke-on-Trent today. The film evidences the 22 pairs of hands through which each piece passes in its production life cycle and records the movements and rhythms of the workplace and the making process.



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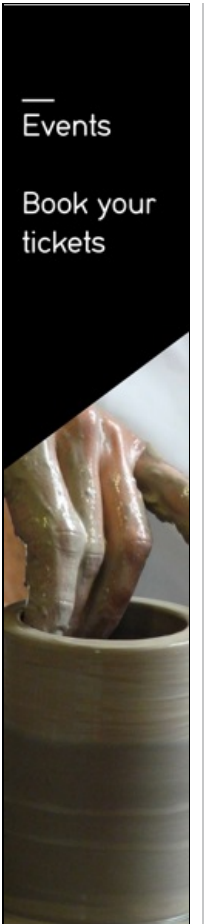
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17 October 2011



Award winner announced
14 October 2011



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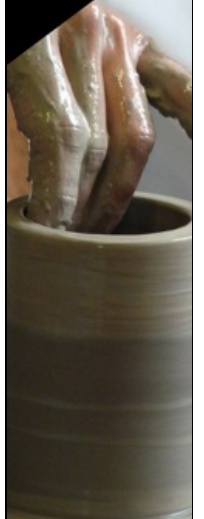


Tristram Hunt MP with Michael Haynes, MD Portmeirion Group, Barney Hare Duke, BCB Co-Director and Phoebe Cummings, Award 2011 Winner



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Tristram Hunt MP revealed as Blue (Italian) fan

17 October 2011

At the recent Award reception at the prestigious Potters' Club in Stoke-on-Trent, an audience of 100 key ceramic artists, academics and industry players gathered to find out who won the £10,000 Award. Phoebe Cummings' extraordinary work took the prize, but the evening also saw an electrifying speech and rallying call to the industry from Stoke-on-Trent Central MP Tristram Hunt.

Here are just a few quotes:

"This great event needs to be as much part of the cultural calendar as the Hay-on-Wye Literary Festival, or the Edinburgh Festival, or London Fashion Week. Stoke in October must mean the Biennial and I'm very grateful to Barney and the BCB team for putting on such a great show - right across the city."

"To my mind, the ceramics industry in Stoke-on-Trent is in a stronger position today than it has been for a number of years... the successful firms we see around us have invested in clean technology, in innovation and - just as importantly - in design. Because what 'Made in Staffordshire' and 'Made in Stoke-on-Trent' is all about is the authenticity of production, the heritage, but also the quality of design."

"We need artists, inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs to know that Stoke-on-Trent is a creative and productive place to work. There are very few cities' names after their indigenous industry. 'Motor City' Detroit is one of them, and so too is The Potteries. We should be intensely proud of that title and make sure we continue to live up to it."

"I hope that the success of this year's Biennial ensures its future for many years to come."

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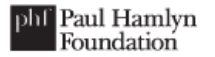
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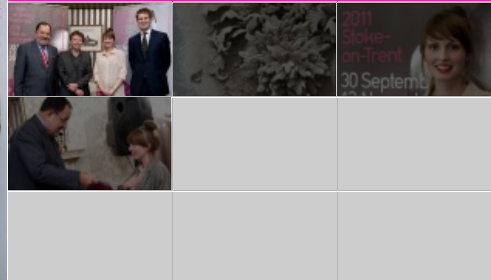
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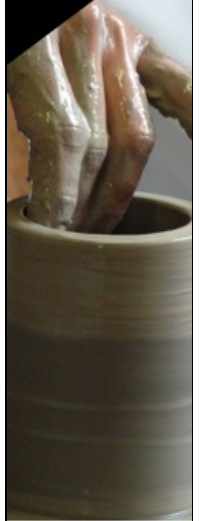


Michael Haynes, Barney Hare Duke & Tristram Hunt congratulate Award winner Phoebe Cummings



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Award winner announced

14 October 2011

In a wonderful evening at the Potters' Club, the winner of the 2011 Spode Award was announced in front of a gathering of artists, sponsors, partners and friends of the Biennial.

After much debate within the judging panel a decision was made. The official duties fell to Michael Haynes, Managing Director of the Portmeirion Group, who presented the award to a stunned and delighted Phoebe Cummings. The Award is sponsored by Spode, part of the Portmeirion Group.

Special guest speaker Tristram Hunt MP (Stoke-on-Trent Central) spoke eloquently of the city's ceramic heritage, but also of a positive future, led by design and innovation, epitomised by the work of the 23 Award artists.

[Award](#) continues at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery until 13 November.



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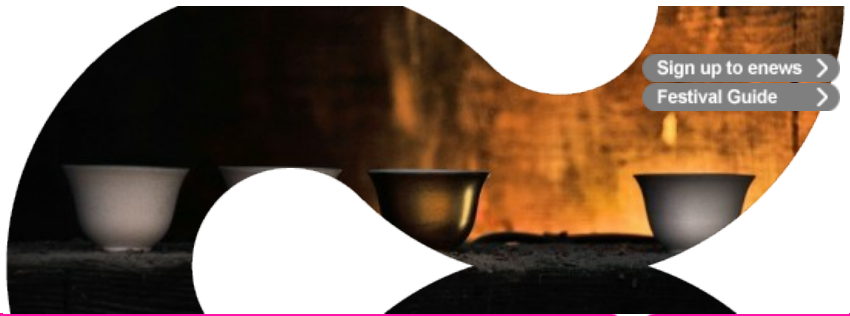
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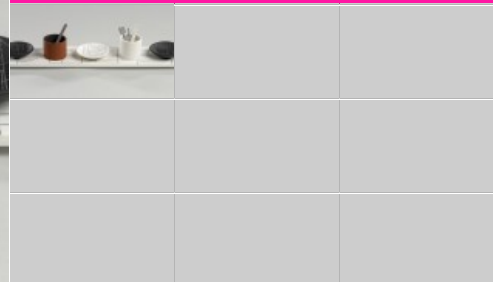
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Vicky Shaw, porcelain & black basalt & red earthen ware (image Steven Allan)



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Open Shelf

03 August 2011

The British Ceramics Biennial is urging artists, companies and designers to submit functional ceramics to go on display as part of a celebration of city pottery.

The Open Shelf exhibition, part of the BCB programme of events celebrating the ceramic industry in Stoke-on-Trent, will be held at the original Spode factory site, in Elenora Street, Stoke Town.

The event will run from 30 September to 13 November and focus on any functional ceramics from plates and mugs to serving dishes and utensils.

Barney Hare Duke co-director of BCB said: "The open shelf is a new element for this year's biennial. It gives us a great chance to show the variety and energy of what is going on in the region across the spectrum of ceramic producers".

Anybody currently living or working in the West Midlands can submit up to five pieces of ceramics to be included in the wall of pottery collections, demonstrating the breadth and extent of ceramic practice in the area.

Open Shelf is a partnership between BCB and the Ceramics Industry Forum (CIF) that provides support and practical help to ceramic companies. The non-profit making organisation is dedicated to supporting UK manufacturers and promoting the ceramic industry in Staffordshire to a wider audience.

Sue Evans of CIF said: "The Open Shelf exhibition is an exciting opportunity for companies to showcase the best of British ceramic products, designed and manufactured by companies who operate successfully in niche markets in the UK and throughout the world. CIF is delighted to be a partner in the British Ceramics Biennial and to play a part in promoting the Ceramic Industry in this high profile event".

The work will be showcased in the historic original Spode site, which was acquired by the city council when the company went into administration in 2009. The Spode brand continues to live on since local firm Portmeirion took over the brand.

The use of the heritage buildings for BCB will be one of the first times that the historic former pottery factory has been used since the company went into administration.

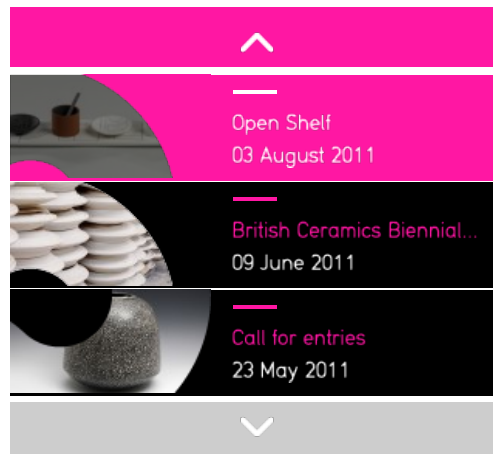
Councillor Mark Meredith, Stoke-on-Trent City Council cabinet member for economic development, said: "Spode has such an abundance of heritage appeal and it is fitting that such an exhibition of ceramic work celebrating the area's long standing, and indeed future connections with the pottery industry is being held at this historic site. It is just the kind of temporary use that the city council is looking for as work is underway on long-term proposals for the regeneration of the town and the historic site."

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

Anyone wishing to submit work for inclusion in the exhibition can contact Sue Evans from CIF at sue@ciflean.co.uk.

BCB and CIF reserve the right not to feature any ceramics that they deem to be offensive.

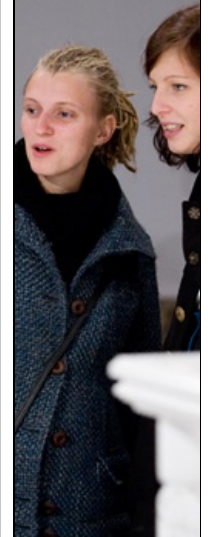
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Open Shelf
03 August 2011

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Call for entries
23 May 2011



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Ceramic Stacks, original Spode works



British Ceramics Biennial 2011

09 June 2011

The British Ceramics Biennial returns to Stoke-on-Trent this autumn. Building on the success of the inaugural festival in 2009, this international cultural event, taking place from 30 September to 13 November, will continue to present the very best in contemporary ceramics. Six weeks of city-wide celebrations will include exhibitions, site-specific installations, artist residencies and creative responses to the region's industrial and architectural heritage.

The historic listed site of the original Spode Pottery factory will form the creative hub of the 2011 festival, with a mass of exhibitions, events and installations. Other events and exhibitions will take place at venues in the city centre, with a special programme of talks, seminars and workshops animating the festival.

At the heart of the British Ceramics Biennial is **AWARD** at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, a major survey exhibition of the best in contemporary ceramic design, practice and manufacture in the UK. From the 24 finalists exhibited, one winner will be awarded a £10,000 prize at an event to celebrate the Biennial on 21 October.

On the original Spode site in Stoke Town, **FRESH** will showcase the work of 40 recent UK graduates, representing the vitality of current emerging ceramic artists in an exhibition that makes use of the redundant furniture and equipment from the factory buildings as an integral part of the display. **FRESH** will also highlight the Crafts Council's "Firing Up" project to re-invigorate the learning of ceramics in secondary schools.

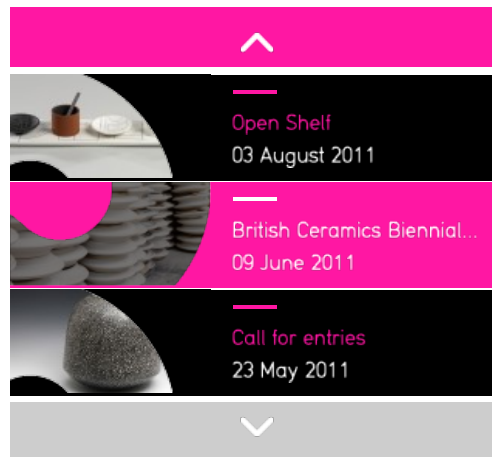
One of the largest shop floors on the original Spode site will be the home of **A Great Wall**. This large-scale installation will feature ceramic pieces from across industrial, domestic, scientific and artistic disciplines, highlighting the diversity, innovation and creativity of the British ceramics industry.

A new body of work by acclaimed ceramic artist **Phil Eglin**, *Mould Store*, will see the artist re-use and reclaim the discarded ceramic moulds from the nine remaining stores at Spode. Eglin joins four other artists who will create specific responses to the factory buildings to allow visitors to explore the ten-acre site. Eglin's work for the Biennial is a result of the Artists into Heritage programme launched at British Ceramics Biennial 2009.

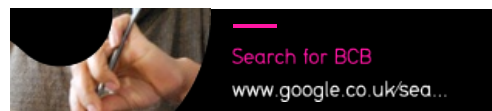
The work of ten international artists produced during residencies at the European Ceramics Work Centre, will be brought to Stoke-on-Trent for **Sunday Morning @EKWC**. The exhibition looks at the results of artistic experimentation and potential benefit to Stoke-on-Trent of a similar centre of excellence. The exhibition is co-curated by Neil Brownsword, an internationally acclaimed artist from Stoke-on-Trent who won the 2009 BCB Award.

An associated programme **OPEN** will see the area's museums, galleries and ceramic industries complement the Biennial with their own ceramics-inspired programme across three weekends during the festival.

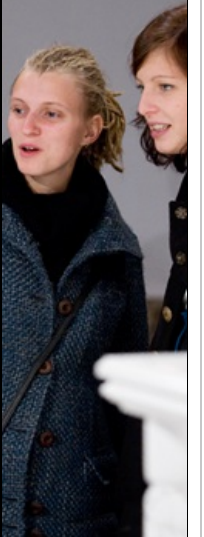
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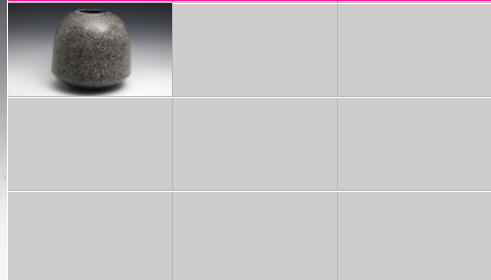
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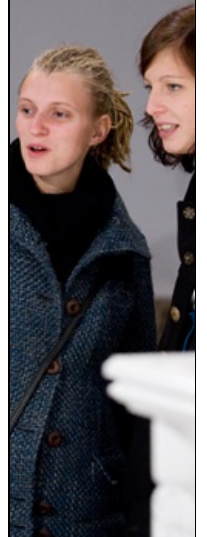
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David Roberts, Award, BCB 2009



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Call for entries

23 May 2011

Applications are invited for the BCB Awards 2011, a prestigious scheme that celebrates the energy and innovation of contemporary British ceramics, in the context of its long history in Stoke-on-Trent.

Focusing on creativity, innovation and achievement, a single prize of £10,000 will be awarded for work submitted across three categories:

- Art: one-off ceramics, ideas, installations
- Craft: studio production
- Design: ceramic design for production

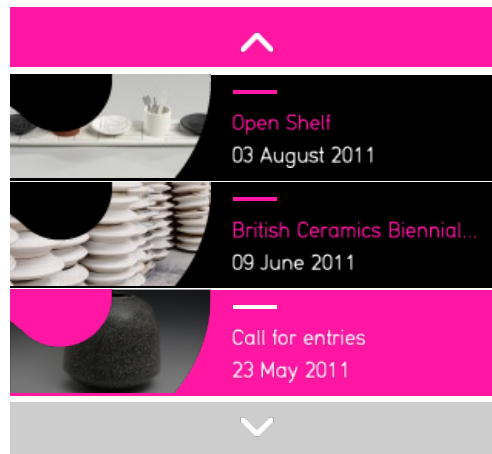
Applications for these categories are invited from all sectors of contemporary ceramics in the UK.

The BCB Awards are a core part of BCB, a programme of events and activities that culminate in the British Ceramics Biennial, a showcase festival of international standing taking place in Stoke-on-Trent from 30 September to 13 November 2011. Work by up to 25 shortlisted artists will be exhibited in the BCB Ceramic Awards exhibition at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery during the biennial.

The Awards Selectors comprise the great and the good of the ceramic world: Ranti Tjan, Director, European Ceramic Work Centre (EKWC); Emmanuel Cooper OBE, potter, curator, writer and Visiting Professor, Royal College of Art; Alun Graves, Curator of Ceramics and Glass Collection, Victoria and Albert Museum; Kevin Oakes Chair of British Ceramic Confederation and Chief Executive of Steelite International; Barney Hare Duke and Jeremy Theophilus Co-Directors of British Ceramics Biennial and Directors of AFine Line.

The deadline for submissions is 31 May 2011. Further information about the awards and how to apply can be found on the British Ceramics Biennial website at www.britishceramicsbiennial.com

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Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Centre of excellence in ceramics

[Stoke-on-Trent City Council](#) is committed to promoting the city as a global centre of excellence in ceramics and as a major tourist destination. In supporting British Ceramics Biennial, we can do both.

Within the City Council, Stoke Town Regeneration is working to develop a masterplan to transform Stoke town into a place where people want to live, work, shop and spend their leisure time. At the heart of the design will be a sensitive mixed-use proposal for the original Spode works, being occupied by the British Ceramics Biennial for its 2011 festival.



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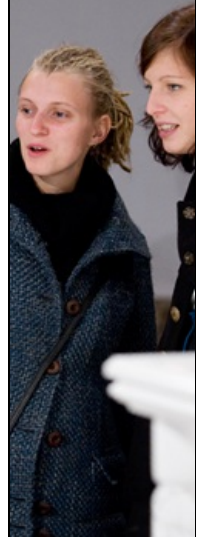


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Flowers, British Ceramics Biennial 2009



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Tile Project

15 September 2011



Clay on Prescription

30 July 2011



Artists into Industry

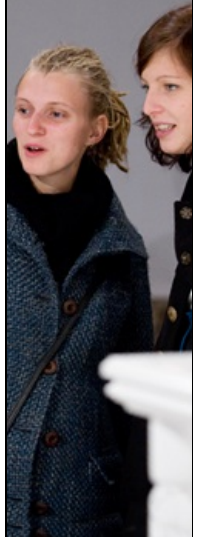
28 June 2011



Artists' Studio

27 June 2011

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Tile Project

15 September 2011

A partnership with H&R Johnson Tiles and Speight of the Art, this project will see children and families from across Stoke-on-Trent create artwork based on the theme of the Olympics for a piece of public art for the City.

A series of ceramic and design workshops will take place throughout September and October 2011 for people to have a go at creating their own artwork using a variety of printing and drawing techniques onto paper and clay, all around the Olympic theme.

The final design for the installation will be made up of hundreds of individual artworks created by local people during the workshops; from screen prints to poems, to create a unique and vibrant design that will then be printed onto a series of tiles using innovative new ceramic printing techniques by local company H&R Johnson.

The artwork will be unveiled to coincide with the Olympic torch journeying through Stoke in May 2012.

Workshops will be taking place at the Potteries Shopping Centre and original Spode Factory Works – dates coming soon...



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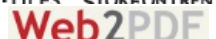
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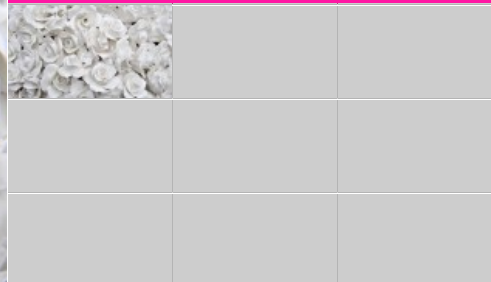
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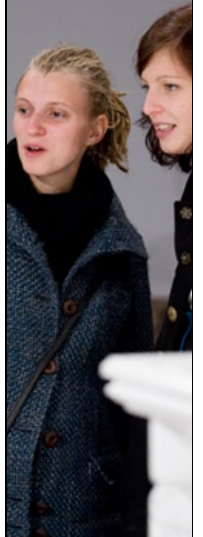
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Flowers, British Ceramics Biennial 2009



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Clay on Prescription

30 July 2011

BCB are working on this exciting project with Willow Bank Partnership (a community interest company that deliver a range of health service at surgeries in Longton and Meir).

The project will see patients from Willow Bank's Longton surgery work with an Artist in Residence for three months, learning a range of ceramic processes and skills, to create a unique piece of ceramic work for the surgery, all inspired by the local art of ceramic flower making, made famous by firms such as Aynsley and Gladstone. It's not just the patients that will be learning new skills as the Artist will also be working with Willow Bank's staff to get their hands dirty.

We hope that by participating in this type of activity that the patients will not only be learning a new skill and meeting new people but it will also help to improve their overall well-being.

This is a pilot project and we will be closely monitoring the impact it has on the patients that take part in the hope that it can be rolled out to other surgeries and/or health settings in the future.

BCB and Willow Bank will select the Artist in Residence through Making Moves, an artist development scheme delivered in partnership with Staffordshire Heritage and Arts Service and Craftsplace.

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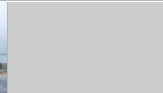
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Mould store on original Spode site



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Artists into Industry

28 June 2011

We are proud to be able to present the work of two of the UK's most significant mid-career artists working in clay: Philip Eglin and Julian Stair.

Philip Eglin will be working with Spode moulds now lying redundant across the former factory site, although the exact nature of his engagement has yet to be finalised. We intend to install the outcomes of his residency in one of the Victorian mould stores. Philip's work is currently to be seen at Blackwell in the Lake District.

Julian Stair has been working in one of the Ibstock factories (near Walsall), using their brick clay to make his signature 'life-size' urns and vessels. This continues the BCB relationship with Ibstock that was so successfully manifested in the Marl Hole project in 2009. This new work will trail Julian's major exhibition in 2012 at MMA in Middlesbrough.

Our Projects



Tile Project

15 September 2011



Clay on Prescription

30 July 2011



Artists into Industry

28 June 2011



Artists' Studio

27 June 2011



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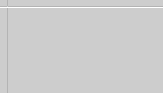
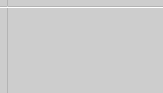
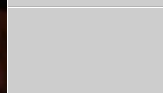
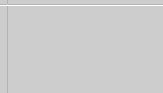
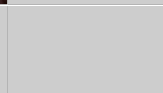
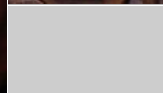
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Potter at the wheel



Artists' Studio

27 June 2011

In the build up to the festival we are setting up the BCB studio. Simon Stamatou has been employed as the studio manager and together we are developing a programme of workshop activity working with local schools, youth and community groups and artists. An exciting "Art on Prescription" project making ceramic flower sculptures in collaboration with a patient group from a local GP practice will be launched during the festival in October.

The new studio will be sited within the exhibition space at the original Spode factory site. A lively programme of workshop activity programmed during the Biennial festival will give visitors the opportunity to both see work in progress and roll their sleeves up and get involved.



Our Projects



Tile Project

15 September 2011



Clay on Prescription

30 July 2011



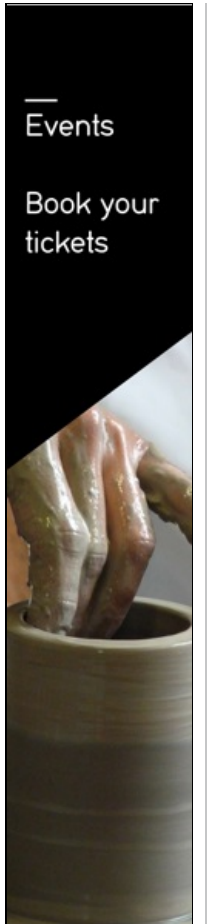
Artists into Industry

28 June 2011



Artists' Studio

27 June 2011



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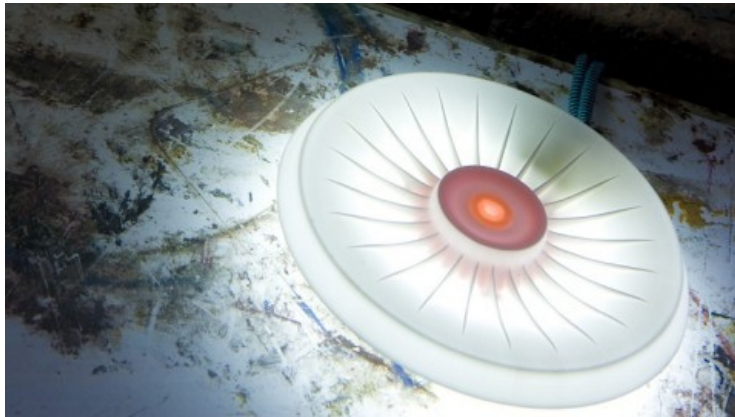
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Overview of the 2009
British Ceramics Biennial

The British Ceramics Biennial (BCB) launched in 2009 with a festival celebrating and showcasing contemporary ceramics from across the world. Set in Stoke-on-Trent - the heart of the UK ceramics industry, the festival took place in established venues and non-traditional spaces across the city. Highlights included a retrospective of Spanish artist Jaime Hayon's ceramics at Emma Bridgewater alongside forty of the best ceramics graduates in the Fresh exhibition; and Indian pots from Gujarat, India in Earthen Vessels. The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery hosted the Award exhibition with the coveted overall prize won by local artist Neil Brownsword. One of the festival's most popular shows was Marl Hole at AirSpace Gallery with an extraordinary film of artists' explorations at Ibstock Brick Ltd's marl pit. All this plus numerous local projects working with local people to create new work inspired by traditional ceramic techniques.



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For national and international press enquiries please contact Miranda Sowden Taliotis at BCB Ltd. on +44(0)1782 294634 / 07971 053066 or miranda@britishceramicsbiennial.com.

For local and regional press enquiries please contact Cheryl Smith at Stoke-on-Trent City Council on 01782 232130 or Cheryl.smith@stoke.gov.uk.

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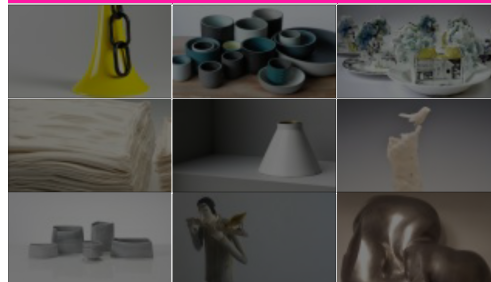


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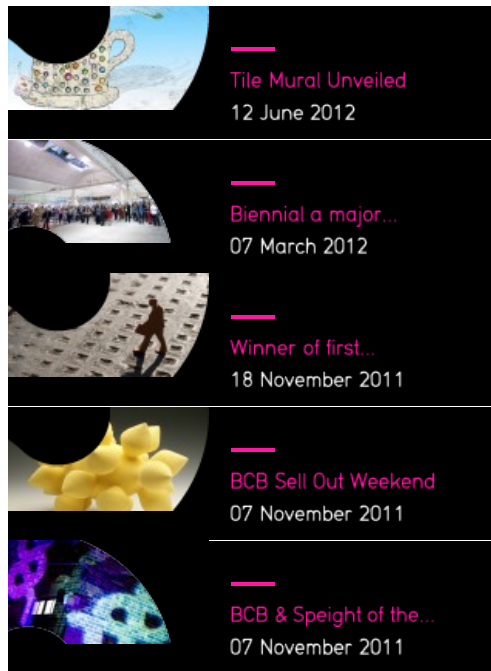


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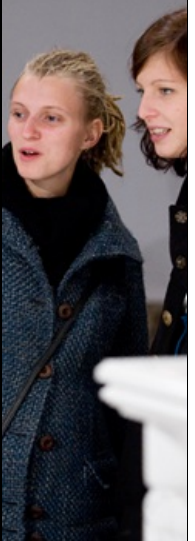
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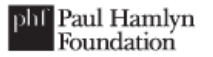
Getting to the Spode factory site

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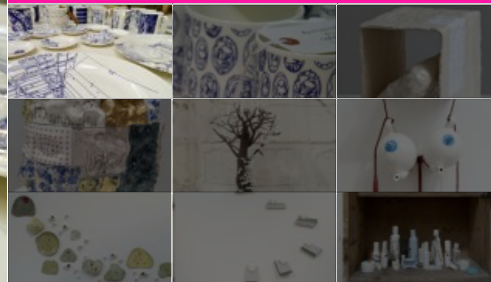
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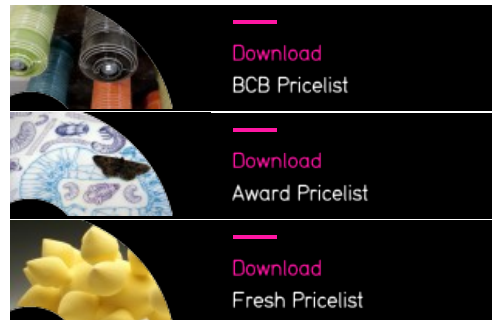
The final weekend of BCB 2011, 12 and 13 November, was a *Sell Out Weekend*. Highlights include:

- Objects from FRESH, an exhibition of work by the ceramics stars of the future, featuring beakers by Jill Shaddock for £25 through to a £5,700 dinner set by Bethan Lloyd Worthington.
- In celebration of the British Ceramics Biennial, the Spode plates on show in the Spode Room will be sold for 50% off the suggested retail price. All proceeds will be invested in the future of the biennial.
- A chance to buy work from AWARD, an exhibition featuring some of the biggest names in the ceramic world. Objects include beakers by Su Kim for £40 through to a Philip Eglin sculpture for £12,500.
- A one-off opportunity to buy work from Flux, a newly launched Stoke-based design company whose work is normally only available for trade buyers.
- A range of other BCB products including Earthen Vessels from Gujarat, India, brought over by BCB in 2009, and a selection of specially made stools from The Factory Refectory.

All items purchased from our exhibitions (with the exception of Award) can be taken away on the Sell Out Weekend.

Thank you to all our discerning shoppers - you generated well over £10,000 of ceramics sales!

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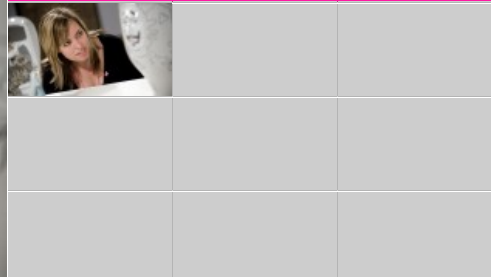
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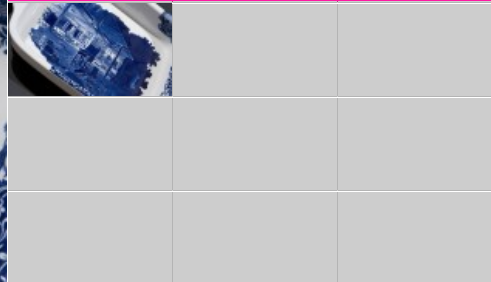
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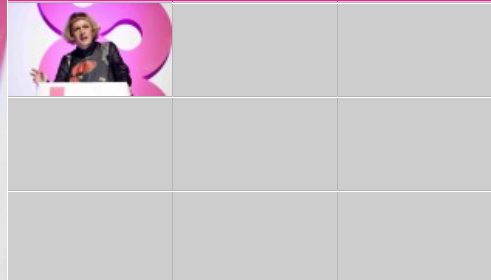
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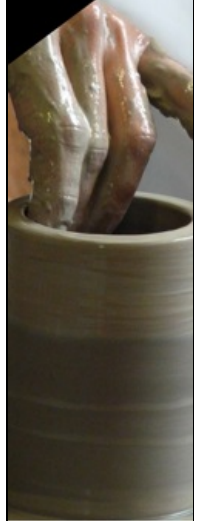


Awards Gala 2009 with Grayson Perry



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Contact

Get in touch with us

We have now moved from our Longton office. Our new contact details are:

Staffordshire University, Faculty of Arts Media and Design, College Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2DE

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