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British Ceramics Biennial searches for new Artistic Director



Barney Hare Duke, Artistic Director of the British Ceramics Biennial (BCB), will step down from the organisation in January 2021 after more than 12 years at the helm.

Barney Hare Duke, together with the late Jeremy Theophilus, was one of the founding directors of BCB, which launched its first festival in Stoke-on-Trent in 2009 as part of a wider programme of regeneration for the city.

Hare Duke will leave BCB in January to take a well-earned break before moving onto a new phase of freelance working. He will make way for a new Artistic Director to join the organisation and develop BCB's strategy for the next five years.

Barney Hare Duke comments: *'I am immensely proud of all that we have achieved at BCB over the past 12 years, and this has not been an easy decision to make. Arguably there is never is a right time to leave, but this time feels about as right as it can get, for myself and for the organisation.'*

'This is a fantastic opportunity for someone to work with a truly ground-breaking cultural organisation and to take BCB in a new, vital and exciting direction. Change opens up opportunities and I believe that this will strengthen us in setting bold ambitions for the sector and for Stoke-on-Trent.'

Hare Duke will continue working with BCB colleagues until his departure, putting in place a core programme for the next 18 months. This includes the 2021 BCB festival, which will once again take centre stage in the China Hall of the original Spode factory site from 11 September to 19 October. The full festival programme will be announced in spring 2021.

Further information about the recruitment of the British Ceramics Biennial's new Artistic Director can be found on the [website](#). The deadline for applications is 12pm (noon) on Monday 14 December and it is hoped that the successful applicant will be in post in early 2021.

Facebook: @britishceramics.biennial

Twitter: @BCBfestival

Instagram: @british_ceramics_biennial

-Ends-

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Notes to editors

About the British Ceramics Biennial:

British Ceramics Biennial (BCB) is the UK's premiere contemporary ceramics festival that takes place in Stoke-on-Trent. BCB presents artworks from the UK's leading ceramicists alongside international artists, in exhibitions and special events held across the city. BCB is underpinned by an exciting year-round programme of artists' commissions, education and community engagement projects.

British Ceramics Biennial is a prestigious project that embraces the heritage of the Potteries as the home of British ceramics; that stimulates creativity and innovation across the breadth of its practice and sharpens Stoke-on-Trent's creative edge as an international centre for excellence in contemporary ceramics.

Initiated in 2009, BCB has grown to be the single largest ceramics event in the UK, a flagship cultural project for Stoke-on-Trent City Council, and a catalyst for regeneration. BCB has been successful in bringing great art, creative energy and critical attention to the city, and has facilitated meaningful new public engagement with local communities, visitors and cultural tourists.

The next British Ceramics Biennial festival takes places from 11 September to 19 October 2021.

British Ceramics Biennial funders:

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