

CALL FOR ARTISTS

British Ceramics Biennial

AWARD 2021



Winner of the British Ceramic Biennial AWARD 2019

Dead Dad Book

Vicky Lindo & William Brookes

Materials: earthenware slip, coloured slips, glaze

Photograph: © Jenny Harper

Following the success of AWARD in 2019 the exhibition will again be situated in the China Hall on the former Spode factory site, where it will be presented as the centre-piece of the British Ceramics Biennial, taking place in Stoke-on-Trent from 11th September to 17th October 2021.



China Hall, Former Spode factory site.

Photographer: © Jenny Harper

Artwork in view:

(Foreground) *Home*, Wookjae Maeng.

(left) *Touchscape* Emily Stapleton-Jefferis.

What is AWARD?

“We are immensely proud of the AWARD exhibition and the work by all the AWARD artists, of how it has developed over six iterations and shaped the identity and profile of the festival and Stoke-on-Trent as an international centre of excellence for contemporary ceramics.

AWARD is an exciting opportunity to present progressive new work and ideas by artists working with clay in the UK.

AWARD both celebrates and stimulates the continued exploration of the creative possibilities of this remarkable universal material.

We are indebted to all those artists who have made AWARD what it is. We eagerly await the response from artists wishing to share in the making of AWARD 2021”

Barney Hare Duke

Artistic Director

British Ceramics Biennial

AWARD is the British Ceramics Biennial's headline exhibition, it's a prestigious exhibition that celebrates the vitality and standing of contemporary ceramics practice in the UK and located within in the context of the history of British ceramics in Stoke-on-Trent.

A panel of passionate individuals who are integral to the growth and innovation within the field of contemporary ceramics come together and select ten shortlisted artists to exhibit in the BCB festival. Each shortlisted artist will receive £1,000 towards the exhibition of work as a central component of BCB 2021 festival. From the ten shortlisted artists, one prize winner is selected, announced and awarded a £5,000 cash prize at the BCB Awards event during the festival programme.

What is AWARD looking for?

AWARD is looking for artists at a critical moment in their practice. This is an exhibition that platforms ambition and creative risk taking within the developing field of contemporary ceramics. It seeks to celebrate the talent and achievements of leading professionals who are pushing at the boundaries of their individual practice and advancing contemporary ceramics practice.

Who is AWARD for?

AWARD invites applications from UK based individual practitioners, collaborators or collectives who use clay as their primary creative material. The AWARD exhibition seeks to have a positive impact on the practice of the exhibiting artists. We seek to support artists who want to make best use of the opportunity, who may wish to tread new ground, use the momentum of the exhibition to focus or make a step change in their practice or to present work in ways it hasn't previously been experienced.

What do the shortlisted artists receive?

Each of the ten shortlisted artists will receive £1,000 towards the exhibition of their selected work as part of the flagship AWARD exhibition. Shortlisted AWARD exhibitors will benefit from a national PR and marketing campaign, curatorial support, programme management support and return transport of exhibits. The AWARD winner will receive a cash prize of £5,000, additional PR and marketing, a place on the 2023 AWARD Selection panel and an invitation to exhibit in the 2023 BCB festival.

What is expected from the shortlisted artists?

Artists are invited to apply for AWARD by submitting a proposal, an outline of what they wish to exhibit. The artists shortlisted must produce the work in line with the original proposal and use the shortlist prize to meet the costs involved in the production of the agreed work. However, it is understood that the proposal may change through the creative process, changes to the proposal should be discussed with BCB. The artists should budget for transporting the work to the BCB exhibition site. Artists are responsible for installing and deinstalling their own exhibit with reasonable practical support from the festival team where possible and within the teams capacity.

We recognise that artists may wish to propose work that will require additional funding or resource, however, this is not an expectation of the exhibition.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible you must:

- Be based in the UK between January 2021 – September 2021
- Be an individual artist, a collective or in collaboration. A collaboration may take place between an artist and arts organisation, between artists or between an artist and community group in the creation of the proposed exhibit.
- Have at least been working professionally since September 2018.
- Be proposing exhibits that use clay as the primary material/medium and the work is based on the exploration of ceramic process. Areas of practice can include: studio pottery, design, socially engaged practice, sculpture, performance, installation, objects, film and audio.

Also eligible:

- Previous AWARD exhibitors.

If you have any query in regards to your eligibility, please get in touch: info@britishceramicsbiennial.com

We encourage applications from:

- People who identify from African and Caribbean diaspora, Ethnically diverse diaspora, North, Northeast, East, Southeast, South, Southwest, West and Northwest Asian diaspora, LGBTQIA+, d/Deaf, disabled, neurodiverse, have long-term health condition/s or are from a lower socio-economic background.

AWARD 2021 Selection Panel

Each year, AWARD exhibitors are selected by a panel of leading professionals who are advocates for contemporary art and making, and who bring a variety of perspectives to the decision making process. The AWARD 2021 selection panel are:

- Selection panel chair person: Alun Graves - Senior Curator Ceramics and Glass V&A
- Clare Twomey - Artist, researcher and writer
- Vicky Lindo & William Brookes – AWARD 2019 Winners
- Barney Hare Duke – Artistic Director, British Ceramics Biennial
- Deirdre Figueiredo – Director Craftspace
- Anjani Khanna – Artist and co founding curator of the Indian Ceramics Triennale
- Skinder Hundal - Director of Arts, British Council

The selection panel will consider the final selection based on the following criteria:

- The quality of the artists' proposal.
- The quality and strength of artistic practice and track record of ambition
- The feasibility of the proposal
- The potential impact of the exhibition on the development of the artists' practice and career.
- A diversity of artists and approach that has the potential to bring to audiences an extended understanding and appreciation of contemporary ceramic practice.

Key dates

October 2020	Applications Open
8th December, 2020	Deadline for submissions (midnight GMT)
January, 2021	AWARD selection panel meet and candidates informed
February	BCB Artistic Director - exhibitor studio visits.
9 th – 15 th August	Delivery of work to exhibition venue
10 th September	Festival launch
11 th September	AWARD exhibition opens to the public
September	AWARD winner is announced
17 th October	AWARD exhibition closes to public
Oct/Nov/Dec	Collection and dispersal of all work

How to apply and Access Support

Artists are asked to submit short proposals, outlining the work they would like to exhibit if selected. It is a condition that all work proposed will be current (no more than three years old and must not include graduate or student work).

The application

You are invited to apply by submitting the following in the online application form:

1. **Applicant Information**
2. **A proposal** outlining the work/s that you wish to be presented. (**500 words max**) please consider including in your proposal, why it's important for the work to be presented now. Your proposal can be submitted as a sound recording, please share a weblink to this file when indicated in the application form. Please see Audio or Video Proposal Submissions for further guidance in the application guidelines.
3. **Budget outline.** Please list the costs involved in your proposal, income identified and if necessary, please indicate unidentified income. We know that artists may wish to propose work that will require additional funding or resource, however, this is not an expectation of the exhibition.
4. **Timeline of production** Please share with us how you see the proposal coming together starting from the end of January, please list key points, self-set deadlines demonstrating how you will meet the delivery deadline August 2021.
5. **Up to 8 image files** this can include photographs, illustrations supporting your proposal or recordings of planned or existing work made within the last 3 years, graduate or student work is not eligible. Image quality should be min. 2,500 pixels wide, 300dpi and in jpeg form. Please share illustrations as jpeg or pdf. Please share weblinks to film and audio works via an online platform (youtube, vimeo form example.). Please title your files with:
yourname_worktitle_year_dimensions_primarymaterialused
6. **Completed Diversity and Equality monitoring form:** When prompted in the online application form please follow the link provided to fill out your Diversity and Equality monitoring form.

Access Support

Access support is specifically available to individuals who feel they face barriers in making an application whether it be financially or other. If you feel that you face barriers and need support a BCB team member is available to help with your application or for an advice session in advance of your application. Please email access@britishceramicsbiennial.com to discuss how we can help you.

Please note that the advice we give on making an application is on the eligibility and suitability of your proposal, it will have no bearing on its assessment during the selection panel.

Audio Application Guidelines

If you would prefer, we have recorded the application form and guidelines, [please click here to listen.](#)

Audio or Video Proposal Submissions

You can submit your application proposal as an audio or video file. In the proposal section of the online application form please share a link to your audio or video file (this can be shared as a link from: dropbox, google drive, vimeo or youtube for example). Please ensure the recording of your proposal is clear and is not heavily produced. There will be no assessment of the production quality of audio or video recordings. Please ensure the audio or video length does not exceed the word count (500 words maximum), it is expected that your application is no longer than four minutes. Please provide a weblink to audio and video recordings in the application form. We need applicant details, budget and the timeline of production in written form, if you need support with this, please email: access@britishceramicsbiennial.com

Diversity:

We recognise that there is that there is an under-representation of diversity in the ceramics sector and acknowledge that as an organisation we share responsibility in addressing systemic inequalities that persist. We need to increase representation of diverse artists and practice in our festival, exhibitions and events programmes.

We have a responsibility to artists working in clay and to the contemporary ceramics sector in addressing the under-representation of diverse artists and the barriers in accessing opportunities to progress. We are taking actions to better support an increase in applications from artists who feel their identity and background are under-represented in our exhibitions and festival programme.

We encourage applications from people who identify from African and Caribbean diaspora, Ethnically diverse diaspora, North, Northeast, East, Southeast, South, Southwest, West and Northwest Asian diaspora, LGBTQIA+, d/Deaf, disabled, neurodiverse, have long-term health condition/s or are from a lower socio-economic background.

We understand the paragraph above isn't holistically reflective of the rich community in which we live and work and if you don't feel this speaks to you and you would like to support how we communicate this in future please get in touch with us:
info@britishceramicsbiennial.com

Frequently Asked Questions

*How do you define **quality**?*

We define quality as the balance of artistic intention, the ability to realise and deliver on those intentions in physical form and to effectively communicate them with an audience.

*What do you mean when you speak about **creative risk taking**?*

We describe creative risk taking as a mixture of innovation and boldness to do something new.

Can the works I apply with be made with materials other than clay?

Yes, providing the primary medium is clay and the work is based on the exploration of ceramic process.

Do the images I submit need to be new work?

No — you can submit images of work up to 3 years old, excluding graduate and student work.

Is there a size restriction?

No, not at this stage — but please provide dimensions of all work submitted on application form.

What media are eligible for entry?

All media are eligible providing the ‘primary medium is clay and the work is based on the exploration of ceramic process’.

Can I apply if I have been selected for previous AWARD exhibitions?

Yes.

I work as an in-house designer for a ceramics company. Can I apply as an individual?

Yes, with the permission of your employer and providing that you are the credited designer of the work submitted.

How do I send my application?

The AWARD 2021 application form is online and can be found by following this [link](https://forms.gle/v3nkhwTFqdYjklXj9) (<https://forms.gle/v3nkhwTFqdYjklXj9>)

Before submitting your application sure to check you have submitted everything listed in the Application section in the AWARD Application Guidelines.

What should I include in my budget?

Please include the costs involved in realising your proposal, costs may include production (making and installation) costs, special display requirements, transport of work to exhibition site and any other costs you see as connected with the proposed exhibit. Please also include income identified and if necessary income not identified.

I'm having a problem accessing/sending my application! What do I do?

Please contact, email: rhiannon@britishceramicsbiennial.com we are happy to help. Due to high quantities of applications being made leading up to the deadline we strongly advise that you make and send in your application well in advance of the deadline.

Is there any access support available for artists wishing to apply who require additional support in order to do so?

Yes. If you feel that you need access support a BCB team member is available to help with your application. Please email: access@britishceramicsbiennial.com to discuss how we can help you.

If you would prefer to, you can also submit your application as an audio or video recording in the application form. In the application form where indicated please share a link to your audio or video file (this can be shared as a link from: dropbox, google drive, vimeo or youtube for example).

Who has exhibited in AWARD?

Ikuko Iwamoto, Ingrid Ruegemer, Louisa Taylor, The New English - Designer: Marcus Steel, Lisa Turner, Monica Tsang, Florian Hutter, Terrie McGettigan, Tanja Livingstone, Lucy Whiting, Sam Bakewell, Neil Brownsword, Halima Cassell, Phoebe Cummings, Natasha Daintry, Stephen Dixon, Philip Eglin, Catrin Howell, Aimee Lax, David Roberts, Fran Priest, Paul Scott, Clare Twomey, Jacob van der Beugel, Conor Wilson, Dawn Youll, Carina Piscato, Robert Cooper, Lowri Davies, Robert Dawson, Ken Eastman, James Evans, Chris Keenan, Rob Kessler, Ikuko Iwamoto & Kazu Loudor, Sun Kim, Peter Lewis, Nao Matsunaga, Craig Mitchell, Katharine Morling, Rosa Nguyen, Merete Rasmussen, Angela Speight, Julian Stair, Caroline Tattersall, Andrea Walsh, Christie Brown, Matthew Chambers, Claudia Clare, Zachary Eastwood-Bloom, Edith Garcia, Malene Hartman Rasmussen, Johnathon Keep, Kim Jin Eui, Nicholas Lees, Andrew Livingstone, Nao Matsunaga, Ian McIntyre, James Rigler, Lara Scobie, Louise Taylor, Tamsin Van Essen, James and Tilla Waters, Katy West, Conor Wilson, Sam Bakewell, Anne Gibs, Amy Hughes, Bethan Lloyd Worthington, Ingrid Murphy & Jon Pigott, Aneta Regel, Mella Shaw, Eva Masterman, Katie Spragg, Malena Hartman Rasmussen, Matt Smith, Matt Raw, Nicholas Rena, Pauliina Pöllänen, Tana West, Zoe Lloyd, Zoe Preece, Jessica Harrison, Sam Lucas, Irina Razumovskaya, Elliott Denny,

Adam Buick, Hannah Tounsend, John Rainey, Barry Finan and Vicky Lindo & William Brookes.