

Thank you

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The Goods Yard

Festival Partner Venues
AirSpace Gallery
Spode Museum Trust Heritage Centre
The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery

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City of Stoke-on-Trent Council
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Portland Inn Project
Potclays
RCCG Living Water Parish
Re-Form Heritage / Middleport Pottery
Restoke Mothers - Maternal Journal
Rowan Court Care Home
SETSPACE
Spode Museum Trust
St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy
St Thomas More Catholic Academy
Staffordshire University
Starfish Health and Wellbeing
Stoke and North Staffordshire CEP
Stoke Recovery Service
Stoke Sixth Form College
Stoke-on-Trent Adult and Community Learning ESOL students
The Grocott Centre
The Hub, Fenton
The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery
UK Government's Kickstarter Scheme
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V&A Wedgwood Collection
Valentine Clays
Visitors to Stoke-on-Trent Pride
Wedgwood
Whitegold Festival
Workers' Educational Association
YMCA North Staffordshire

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The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery - Neil Brownsword, Alchemy and Metamorphosis

Examining the innovation and ingenuity of North Staffordshire's early ceramic industrialisation

Alchemy and Metamorphosis examines North Staffordshire's early ceramic industrialisation, innovation and ingenuity through a range of contemporary practices and perspectives.

The exhibition curates a timeline of objects and archaeology from the Potteries Museum and other world-class regional collections. Internationally-acclaimed artist Neil Brownsword reveals the technologies, cultural influences and empiricism that led to the growth of a world-renowned centre of ceramic production.

In response to this history, Brownsword presents a combination of new and ongoing works that re-imagine historical materials and practices through the collision of traditional ceramic skills and digital technology.

A programme of performances and demonstrations throughout the exhibition will engage visitors with live research in collaboration with visual simulation experts and ex-ceramic artisans. Alchemy and Metamorphosis aims to renegotiate the contemporary relevance and unrealised creative potential of industrial craft practices.

Spode Museum Trust Heritage Centre - Fortnum's X Paul Scott, Gardens of Lyra

Celebrating a new Cumbrian Blue(s) teaware set inspired by early chinoiserie patterns

Artist Paul Scott showcases Cumbrian Blue(s) Gardens of Lyra teaware in the Spode Museum Trust Heritage Centre in partnership with Fortnum & Mason.

Made by Spode for Fortnum's, the pretty china draws its graphic origins from deep within the museum's archives. The new design re-imagines early chinoiserie patterns including 'Brosley', 'Heritage', 'New Bridge', 'Queen Charlotte', 'Temple', and 'Willow', alongside elements from the classic Copeland/Spode 'Tower'.

The exhibition includes Paul's preparatory artworks and original copper plates used in the development of the new design, as well as new 'one-off' pieces in the series made for Fortnum's Gardens of Lyra launch.

Free hands-on activities

Enjoyment for the whole family

Immerse yourself in family fun celebrating the life, character and creativity that ceramics bring to Stoke-on-Trent.

Explore traditional plate making activities.

Play with clay and make a traditional plate by rolling and moulding

Design your own transfer by drawing, collaging or writing a unique digital print

Use our 3D printer

Explore conventional clay plate throwing on the pottery wheel.

Shape the clay using only your hands, fingers and a little water

All plates will be added to the collection for decorating

Explore clay by mixing, experimenting and learning about this incredibly versatile and fascinating material.

Uncover clay's origins

Learn about its different colours

Discover what ingredients create glaze

Test your creativity by joining hands-on sessions every weekend during the festival.

Stoke Makes Plates in partnership with Duchess China 1888
Throw a Plate: 10am-12pm and 1-3pm.
Plate Making Masterclass: 10am-12pm and 1-3pm.

The Clay Lab in partnership with the Foundations Project
Explore Clay: 10am-12pm (beginners) and 1-3pm (advanced).

All ages welcome. Under 11s must be supervised by a parent or adult. No booking necessary but places are limited for each session.



11 September - 17 October 2021

Stoke-on-Trent

Celebrating the life, character and creativity that ceramics bring to Stoke-on-Trent

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Introduction

As the new Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the British Ceramics Biennial, it is my privilege to welcome you to the seventh BCB festival in our beloved Stoke-on-Trent. After such a turbulent 18 months, it feels all the more significant that we are staging our festival once again. Culture brings people together and through this year's programme we are showing that, even in difficult times, the great possibilities for creativity and innovation have not diminished.

The joy of the BCB festival is the opportunity for close contact with thought-provoking and often politically charged work, with many of the artists taking inspiration from Stoke-on-Trent's extraordinary industrial heritage. This year we are launching a digital platform too, enabling new insights and bringing the work of leading artists to a far wider audience. The festival has also moved to a new festival hub, The Goods Yard, in the heart of Stoke town. This architecturally fascinating warehouse brings much historic character to experiencing the best of ceramic creativity, innovation and expression and sits alongside our partner venues, which extend the footprint of the festival across the city – this year taking in AirSpace Gallery, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, the Spode Museum Trust Heritage Centre and the Spode Rose Garden.

Thank you to Arts Council England, City of Stoke-on-Trent Council, Staffordshire University and all of the artists, contributors and partners that make the BCB festival possible. More than ever before, this year's festival is about supporting the artists and communities we work with and welcoming visitors back to the city. We hope you enjoy the 2021 festival.

– Clare Wood

British Ceramics Biennial 2021 Venue locations

The Goods Yard ST4 1HG
AirSpace Gallery ST1 4HL
Spode Museum Trust Heritage Centre ST4 1QQ
The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery ST1 3DW

AWARD 2021 – British Ceramics Biennial's headline exhibition

Celebrating the vitality and standing of contemporary ceramics

AWARD is a prestigious exhibition and the leading platform for contemporary ceramic art practice in the UK. Commemorating the history of British ceramics in Stoke-on-Trent, the 2021 show forms the focal point of the BCB festival. Bringing together 10 of the UK's most innovative ceramic artists, who are competing for a £5,000 prize.

Shortlisted from over 160 entries, the chosen artists highlight the diversity of those held in the highest international standing and fresh new talent. The ceramics on display seek to introduce audiences to excellence, innovation and creative ambition.

The ceramic creations reflect various approaches – from vessels to mosaics, sculpture to installation art. The new work ranges from an installation made using clay from beneath the North Sea to life-size mosaic figures created from historic pottery. By exploring geopolitical, environmental and socio-political themes in their work, the artists use ceramics to make sense of our changing world.

Shortlisted artists: Alison Cooke, Christie Brown, Cleo Mussi, Connor Coulston, Helen Beard, Ho Lai, Jin Eui Kim, Mawuena Kattah, Stephen Dixon and Tamsin van Essen.

Judging panel: Alun Graves – Senior Curator Ceramics and Glass V&A (Chair); Clare Twomey – artist, researcher and writer; Vicky Lindo and William Brookes – AWARD 2019 winners; Barney Hare Duke – Former 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.



Alice Walton and Laura Plant, Fresh exhibitors and Talent Award winners 2019. Image Jenny Harper

Fresh – a platform for new artists

Applauding emerging talent in contemporary ceramics in the UK and Ireland

Fresh 2021 celebrates and promotes emerging talent in contemporary ceramics. The platform enables 25 artists to inspire and challenge by shining a spotlight on their work.

The works featured in the exhibition celebrate the unique learning pathways that each maker, artist and designer has followed. Some discovered clay as a child or while studying in the community, while others found the medium through college and university. These bright new talents are united by their intention to embark on careers within the ceramics field – and by their extraordinary achievements.

The pieces display their personal journeys in clay, which cross cultures, continents and forms of expression. Each artist opens our eyes to the vast material possibilities of the medium. Their commitment to artistic discovery represents the courage of new beginnings, providing what we all need at this moment in time.

Several Fresh Talent Residencies will be awarded during the British Ceramics Biennial 2021 festival. The residencies will take place through partnerships with Staffordshire University and Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Center, in Denmark.

Abi Wills
Antonio Fois
Becky Hoghton
Chloe Monks
Cicely Peers
Corinna Reynolds
Dorcas Casey
Elizabeth Jackson
Fi Underhill
Gerald Mak
Ian Thompson
Janet Ann Lines
Karl Sebastian
Katy Stubbs
Leora Honeyman
Lexie Macleod
Nico Conti
Nicole Waefler
Oriel Zinaburg
Popalini & Jezando
Rosie Harman
Sarah Strachan
Serena Quinn
Valerie Bernardini
Valerie Zoz

AWARDED – Fresh Talent

Providing opportunities for fresh talent to blossom

Awarded Fresh Talent presents the works from Fresh 2019 Award winners. Artists Alice Walton, Laura Plant, Toni de Jesus and Pam Su showcase their new and ambitious work created over the last 12 months. The exhibition acts to celebrate their tenacity, resilience and courage during the challenging time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The artists were awarded the opportunity to take up residency in 2021, hosted by Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Center, Denmark; Staffordshire University; Wedgwood and the British Ceramics Biennial Studio.

Toni de Jesus

Toni's work aligns with a quest to find identity and the association of ceramics within the crafts debate and its position in society. He is fascinated by duality and juxtaposition and conceptualises how we live in a constant state of flux in his work.

Pam Su

Using clay and glaze, Pam explores how the concept of lost and found creates a temporary place. A space where time is frozen and a psyche where hope and disillusionment coexist.

Alice Walton

Taking up residency at Wedgwood, Alice has created a collection of sculptural objects combining the classic Wedgwood Jasper colours and distinguished design with her fluid contemporary surface decoration.

Alice's work is on display at The Goods Yard and with the V&A Wedgwood Collection, World of Wedgwood during the BCB festival.

Laura Plant

Through a body of work playfully re-imagining iconic forms, Laura explores the identity and culture of Stoke-on-Trent. Having spoken to local people, she is reconnecting heritage and referencing the creativity and ambition of the city's past and present.



Toni De Jesus, Fresh exhibitor and Talent Award winner 2019. Image Jenny Harper



Stoke Makes Plates – a local exploration

Connecting local communities with the heritage of Stoke's historic high street

The Stoke Makes Plates heritage-mapping project showcases an exploration into the historic high street of Stoke past, present and future. This unique ceramic heritage provided a rich source of inspiration for a personal response to making and decorating a plate.

The exhibition features over 250 unique plates, made and designed by 150 local residents and community groups during 2020 and 2021. Participants transformed their kitchens, or residential home communal areas, into clay studios. They used specially made clay kits to join online artist-led sessions. Others were able to attend in-person workshops.

Interactive sessions introduced the traditional art of clay plate making. Long-established throwing and raku techniques were blended with modern digital transfer printing. Using the plate as a blank canvas, each maker has responded uniquely, exploring what matters to them.

Being immersed in local heritage and exploring memories enabled reflections on bygone years, as well as looking to the future. The experimental workshops produced a panoramic view of heritage from diverse cultural, social and ethnic backgrounds. Communicating these interpretations fostered an appreciation for the unique heritage of Stoke's historic high street.

Project artists:

Joanne Mills

Sarah Fraser

Alice Thatcher

Zeba Imam

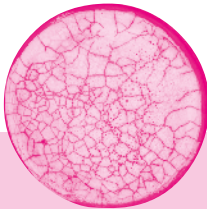
Cath Ralph

Vicky Lindo and

William Brookes

Anjum Malik

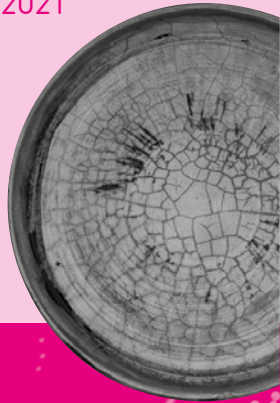
Duchess China 1888



Awarded – Vicky Lindo and William Brookes

Winners of the British Ceramics Biennial 2019 AWARD, Vicky Lindo and William Brookes return to the festival in 2021 to present their new body of work, Follicular and Luteal.

Follicular and Luteal explores the menstrual cycle and its impact on the body and mind, drawing out ideas of repetition and the connection between the physical changes within the cycle and the psychological ones. The work has enabled Vicky to reflect upon why it has taken her so long to become interested in this bodily function and its connection with everything we are and do.



Stoke Makes Plates

Vicky Lindo and William Brookes with Duchess China 1888.

Stoke Makes Plates features over 250 unique plates each made and designed by residents of Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme. This project also brought together Vicky Lindo and William Brookes with the remarkable bone china production of Duchess China 1888. Vicky, William and Duchess China 1888 have created a pair of plates commemorating two of Vicky's personal, yet recognisable, experiences of the last year. The plates are available to buy online and in-person during the festival for £45 for a single plate or £80 for the pair. They are a limited, signed edition, made in fine bone china in Stoke-on-Trent by Duchess China 1888. www.britishceramicsbiennial.com/event/stoke-makes-plates-vicky-lindo-duchess-china-1888



Spode Rose Garden, Kingsway, Stoke-on-Trent

In association with AirSpace Gallery, curated by Anna Francis

Urban green spaces have become ever more important in terms of health and wellbeing. We are just beginning to understand the expanded role that city green spaces play in supporting the health of city dwellers. The Living Garden is a programme of activity, public workshops and commissions for the Spode Rose Garden, to really understand this beautiful space.

Foundations Lab – curiosity

Engaging children from across the city with informal science learning

Foundations is an exciting hands-on project funded by Children in Need and the Wellcome Trust.

The project aims to engage children across the city in a series of events that explore informal science learning. Dig your own clay activity packs help to investigate where clay comes from, how it behaves as a material and its practical applications.

Children explore the similarities between scientific exploration, discovery and the creative process. Sessions take place via holiday clubs, workshops and as an after-school club at St Thomas More Catholic Academy.

The Foundations Lab is conceived in partnership with the Hubb Foundation, which delivers school meals and activities to schools across Stoke-on-Trent. The impact of the Covid-19 restrictions, unfortunately, limited its delivery and the project will be extended into 2022.

Jaqueline Bishop – History at the Dinner Table

Investigating the history of Wedgwood in Jamaica

As a little girl growing up on the island of Jamaica, Jaqueline Bishop remembers her grandmother's large mahogany cabinet and prized bone china crockery. These delicate pieces were painted with bright, cheerful images of palaces and carriages, and were only used on special occasions. As beautiful as those china dishes were, they often hid a violent history of slavery and colonialism by European countries.

History at the Dinner Table is a collaboration between Jaqueline – a writer, artist and professor at New York University – and SETSPACE, an independent, artist-run collective and registered arts charity.

Following research into the history of Wedgwood in Jamaica, Jaqueline is creating 18 collages. The collection will form an interpretation of fine bone china decorative plates used symbolically within Caribbean homes to reference that "one is now a grown woman".

Jaqueline is seeking to re-frame history and the gendered lives articulated in the decoration of the plates. Instead of colonialism within the Caribbean, her story shows the legacy of slavery.

Jaqueline will be hosting a discussion and workshop with community groups around her research and creations.

Tana West – A View from a Distance

Visiting a china clay country panorama

In partnership with the Whitegold Project, Tana West is presenting a large semi-circular ceramic panorama. Constructed of 18 panels, the scene stretches over 5 metres long. The panorama takes inspiration from the early 19th century panoramic wallpaper depicting the Bay of Naples in Italy that once hung in the White Hart Hotel in St Austell, Cornwall.

Tana draws on the richness of St Austell's social and geological interactions to create an alternative theatrical spectacle of place.

The rise in popularity of panoramic wallpapers occurred when travelling for most people was not a viable option. Drawing parallels with this original context and in response to the challenges of Covid-19, Tana has created this piece from a distance. Tapping into social media, gathering stories and imagery, Tana used waste materials from china clay extraction sent by post to create a colour palette.

The Whitegold Prize introduces St Austell's wealth of history and global connections through china clay to the attention of outstanding ceramic artists and audiences across the world. Tana won the Whitegold International Ceramics Prize Feldspar Award in 2019.



The Portland Inn Project CIC (PIP) – pioneering community spaces

Celebrating the relationships between place, landscape and material

The Portland Inn Project CIC (PIP) is a creative arts project seeking to achieve cohesion, economic, social and cultural development. The project pioneers the use of community spaces, cultural hubs and social enterprise.

For BCB 2021, PIP has developed a new product as part of its social enterprise. BCB ceramic artists Joanne Mills and Sarah Fraser collaborated with PIP artist Anna Francis to create new gardenware, The Fern Brick.

Inspired by the challenges faced in 2020 and staying closer to home, the ware reflects the experiences of outdoor spaces in Portland Street, Stoke-on-Trent. The backyards of terraced homes became a lifeblood in connecting with nature, growing plants and time with family.

The Fern Brick is a special design to celebrate this and recognises the dark corners we all find in our outdoor spaces.

The project encourages green credentials in our neighbourhood and the use of backyard shade-loving plants.



The Leach 100 – a milestone partnership

Celebrating the relationships between place, landscape and material

The British Ceramics Biennial and Leach Pottery, St Ives, present a new milestone partnership exhibition.

Stoke-on-Trent, St Ives and wider Cornwall share a long-entwined history, connected through china clay and making pottery by hand in the studio and the factory.

The Leach Pottery, to mark its centenary, offered its first ever commissions. Artists were invited to develop new and inventive works in response to its heritage and values. Commissions explore how pottery and clay practice have a vital and illuminating role in society and creativity.

Arts Council England, the Garfield Weston Foundation and Cornwall Council provide financial support for The Leach 100 Commissions.

Amy Hughes

Responding to the Leach aesthetic of 'Brushwork', in 'A Potter's Book', Amy has crafted brushes from found and foraged materials local to the pottery in St Ives. With tools in hand she sought to freely imbed decoration in the form of a series of ambitious pots.

Steven Claydon

Steven's installation explores the roles of the pot as a physical and cultural form. Using the vessel as a symbol, he explores the uneasy relationship between folk art and nationalism, technology and handcraft.

David Paton and Rosanna Martin

This collaborative work explores the material legacy of industrial crafts within the contemporary Cornish landscape. Their collaborative and creative process has resulted in a series of pieces that examine the relationships between natural and human processes of deposition and aggregation, and between the artists' own professional and familial histories.

Aaron Angell

Aaron's new work references Japanese ceramics, particularly those of Iga and the Shigaraki Valley. His works represent the fulfilment of a long-term ambition to use wood-firing techniques and the use of unglazed clay bodies.

AirSpace Gallery – Use and Ornament

A manual for recovery through pottery and ceramics

AirSpace Gallery continues its enduring and evolving partnership with the British Ceramics Biennial, presenting independent artist residencies and public activities.

In a city with a rich and complicated ceramics history, this exhibition, Use and Ornament, aims to understand what clay and ceramics can offer us as we move into a time of recovery and rebuilding.

Use and Ornament creates a space for respite and refuge from a time of difficulty. Setting out some practical uses for this very earthly of materials, and how it might help us to recover, when the time comes.

The exhibition delves further into the belief that the role of art, and the artist and maker's occupation, is to create moments that move us beyond the bounds of the earthly. To encourage the importance of imagination, exploration and departure.

In an exhibition of two halves, the works shown discuss the need to make more sustainable choices and to shift thoughts and actions concerning global resources. The works then recognise that there is good reason to celebrate the sublime; for as much as we need our art to have a role and a purpose, sometimes that role and purpose can be to lift us out of the hole we are in, even if just for a moment, to dream of the future.

