

'CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURAL CERAMICS' SHOW
at Porthminster Gallery, St Ives, Cornwall

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Exhibition: 'CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURAL CERAMICS'

Location: Porthminster Gallery, Westcott's Quay, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2DY, UK

Exhibition Dates: Friday 28th July – Sunday 3rd September 2017

Opening Times: Mon – Sat, 10 am – 5 pm. Sun, 11 am – 4 pm.
Free admission.

'CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURAL CERAMICS'

The award-winning Porthminster Gallery in St Ives has gained a strong reputation for showing museum-quality ceramics by international names, often showing for the first time in St Ives. In the new 'Contemporary Sculptural Ceramics' show, the range and diversity of contemporary practice is displayed through the works of eight leading lights in their field:

Carina Ciscato; Peter Hayes; Regina Heinz; Charlotte Jones; Sun Kim; Antonia Salmon; Craig Underhill; Keith Varney.

The Curator's Perspective:

David Durham, gallery owner and curator, said, "this beautiful show celebrates the excellence and innovative skills and techniques of contemporary British ceramicists working to create sculptural 'fine art' forms, as opposed to tableware and domestic vessels. Bernard Leach, along with the master Japanese potter Shoji Hamada, played a key role in putting St Ives on the global map as a major international pottery. Whilst honouring and respecting that tradition, I am also passionate about contemporary ceramics practice – especially 'sculptural' work – and so this new show highlights some of my current favourite practitioners in the field."

The artists being shown are:

Carina Ciscato is a Brazilian potter from Sao Paulo, who has lived in London since 1999. Ciscato's spontaneous and fluid thrown and altered porcelain pots are the result of thoughtful deliberation. They are carefully conceived: the subtle and delicate marks gently applied; the pots distorted and altered; the edges are delicately frayed and torn. The quiet and muted tones of white and celadon glazes are chosen to emphasize the fluidity of the forms. "They are perfectly imperfect", she says.

Ciscato was born in Brazil in 1970 and studied ceramics in Europe, USA and South America, having been apprenticed to Marietta Cremer in Krefeld, Germany (1992 – 93) and to Lucia Ramenzoni in San Paulo, Brazil (1993 – 99). She moved to the UK in 1999, and

from 2000 – 03 she was assistant to the English studio potter Julian Stair in London. In 2004 she set up her own studio in Camberwell, London. Since 2001 she has participated in numerous group shows, mainly in London, including: Royal College of Art; Victoria & Albert Museum; Craft Council; Chelsea Craft Fair. She has also been exhibited at the Leach Pottery in St Ives; Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Work is in the collection of the V&A Museum, London.

Peter Hayes The distinctive appearance of Hayes' ceramic sculptures comes from techniques like the Raku firing to which he subjects them, but also from the fact that he submerges them in the flowing river beside his studio, or sends them to Cornwall to be submerged in the sea for months at a time. The water washes minerals such as copper and metal oxides into the basic white clay with which Hayes works, creating a characteristic green-blue 'blush' in his sculptures along with random elements that make every piece unique. The effect is to create objects that look ancient, and perhaps even a little alien. Hayes' creations are generally finished by waxing and polishing.

Hayes was born in Birmingham, England in 1946. At age 12, he was selected to attend the Moseley School of Art. In 1961 he left to study at the Birmingham College of Art before travelling extensively in Africa. Over the course of several years, Hayes worked as a ceramic artist with tribes and village potters who inspired him with the exquisite work they produced using very limited technology and tools. Moving on to India, Nepal, Japan, Korea and New Mexico, he found similar skills and adopted the techniques he learned. In 1982, Hayes came home and built a studio in a disused toll house on Cleveland Bridge, Bath. Works are in many public, private and corporate collections in the UK and abroad

Regina Heinz is an award-winning, internationally renowned ceramicist, whose hand built abstract sculptures reveal her original training as a painter. Heinz's works – undulating, gridded, geometric patterned forms – suggest those 'wire frame' computer models of 'wormholes' and 'curved space-time', despite their actual basis in the mountainous landscape of her native Austria and, the rhythm and repetitive patterns in modern urban architecture. Works are in many British and International collections, including: Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge; the Museum of Contemporary Ceramics in Gifu, Japan; the International Ceramics Museum in Faenza; and the Yingge County Ceramics Museum in Taipei.

Commissions have included residential developments in London and Saudi Arabia, and a series of sculptural wall pieces for 2000 cabins of P&O's newest cruise ship Britannia, launched in 2015.

Charlotte Jones forms coil-built, pinch-rimmed tactile pots from layers of white stoneware clay coloured with small amounts of clay, rust, grog and oxides that Jones digs and collects locally. This very physical process gives personal identity to the work, and underlines Jones' relationship with the environment. By scraping, and using an actual pebble to burnish the leather-hard pots before firing just once, her pots gain a strong and waterproof finish and echo the strata-layering of beach stones tumbled in the surf, and of time-weathered rocks.

After years of travelling, Jones came with her family on a boat to live in Cornwall in 1989. In 1993 she completed the Foundation course, Falmouth College of Art and in 2001 a BA (Hons) Studio Ceramics, Falmouth College of Arts.

Since then, Jones' work has been exhibited throughout the UK and in Europe, her pots are in collections worldwide and have featured in local and national press – having recently featured in *The Guardian* magazine.

Sun Kim creates work that focuses on making functional objects which explore the relationship between the traditional and the contemporary. Inspiration comes from her surroundings: objects and their historical context, architecture, texture, colour, design and nature.

Born in Saudi Arabia and brought up in Brazil, Kim is a Korean ceramicist who moved to the UK in 2004 to undertake a studio assistantship with Edmund de Waal – one of the world's leading artists working in ceramics today. Having studied ceramics and received her first BA in Fine Arts in Sao Paulo, Brazil, she continued her studies in ceramics, graduating with a second BA from Alfred University, New York in 2003. In 2007 she set up her own studio practice in London where she is currently based.

Since Kim moved to London she has been exhibiting throughout the UK and internationally. Exhibitions include: Cheongju International Crafts Biennale (Korea); Officine Saffi (Italy); British Ceramics Biennale; Ceramic Ireland International; European Ceramic Context (Denmark); and The Clay Art Centre (USA). Works are in permanent collections including: the Museum of Northern Ireland; Mashiko Museum of Ceramic Art, Japan.

Antonia Salmon has, for over 25 years, made ceramic sculpture, experimenting with different stoneware clays, and burnished and smoke fired surfaces. Inspired by large landscapes, small organic forms, Classical and 20th Century sculpture, and prehistoric artefacts, Salmon has always been concerned with the search for pure strong forms that reflect certain qualities of being.

The making methods are varied: throwing and altering, hand-modelling, coiling or construction from slabs. Each work is also hand-burnished, smoke-fired several times and finally wax-polished – it is an intimate and patient process.

After studying Geography at Sheffield University, Salmon trained in Studio Pottery at Harrow School of Art. A year spent studying in the Middle East and India made a deep impression on her approach to work and, soon after her return to England in 1984, she established her first workshop in Barbican, London. By 1989, in search of a life nearer open countryside she moved to Sheffield from where she shows her work internationally, running master classes and bringing up a family.

Salmon is on the Crafts Council Index of Selected Makers, is a Fellow of the Craft Potters Association, and a Member of Society of Designer Craftsmen. Her work is exhibited in public and private collections throughout the UK, Europe, USA, Japan and China.

Craig Underhill builds innovative, painterly, and richly textured slab-built, engobe layered pots that evoke the essence of 'place'. Influenced by his experience of landscape – both natural and man-made – walking the coastal landscapes of Cornwall and the southwest.

Underhill was born in Scotland in 1968. He studied for a Btec HND in Design (Ceramics) at Harrow College of Higher Education, from 1987 – 89, and then went on to study BA (Hons) Fine Art (Ceramics) at Portsmouth Polytechnic, from 1989 – 90. He then went on to a graduate assistantship at University of Eastern Illinois, USA, in 1990.

In 2004 and 2006, Underhill was awarded Arts Council grants to produce and promote new bodies of work. He lives in Stourbridge, West Midlands and since 1997 he has lectured in Ceramics at Dudley College, and has exhibited extensively in the UK, France and The Netherlands. In 2013 he was an invited artist at the Landscape and Ceramics Symposium in Kecskemet, Hungary.

Keith Varney explores form, line, texture and shade in his hand-built, folded and constructed translucent porcelain objects that have a luminous, light and ethereal quality. By skilfully combining elements of slip casting, hand-building and origami, Varney has developed a technique that produces distinctive sculptural objects at the very edge of the material possibilities of porcelain: eggshell thin sheets fired almost to the point of melting.

Following a successful career as a furniture designer and maker, Varney returned to education in 2005. After achieving a triple distinction in Design Crafts at City of Bath College, he went on to gain a first class BA (Hons) 3D Design: Ceramics, from Bath School of Art and Design.

In 2011, Varney established his studio and developed his practice while working part time as a technician and tutor in the Department of Art and Design at City of Bath College. In 2013 he was selected for the Crafts Council – ‘Hothouse’ emerging maker development programme, and was mentored by Carina Ciscato and Sasha Wardell (both represented by the Porthminster Gallery).

Varney is a professional member of the Craft Potters Association and is represented by Contemporary Ceramics Centre, London and the Porthminster Gallery, St Ives. He has exhibited at Ceramic Art London, and received the award for 'Best Ceramics' at the Contemporary Craft Festival 2013.

The work of all eight artists will be available to view in the gallery as a complementary addition to the ‘*St Ives Summer Show: 10*’ at the Porthminster Gallery, St Ives, until Sunday 3rd September 2017.

Curated by Gallery Director David Durham.

All works are available to buy. Price range: £90 – £3,000.

Running alongside the exhibitions will be a collection of collectible Modern St Ives and British Art by Sandra Blow, Terry Frost, Barbara Hepworth, Patrick Heron, Henry Moore, Peter Lanyon, Ben Nicholson, Victor Pasmore, Bryan Pearce and other both century modern masters.

ENDS

Notes to editors Throughout 2017 the award-winning Porthminster Gallery celebrates its tenth year in St Ives, Cornwall with a diverse programme of expertly curated exhibitions and events.

Established by art patrons and gallery directors Dee Bray and David Durham in York in 1999, the business was relocated to St Ives in 2007 to concentrate its focus on the art of St Ives and Cornwall. Since then the gallery has championed the work of more than 80 living British artists through its progressive and expertly curated shows, and has showcased and

introduced many young up-and-coming artists to an appreciative local and global collectorship. The gallery has also gained a strong reputation during the ten years for its impressive shows and changing stock of Post War St Ives and British Art.

Porthminster Gallery won the *Cornwall Today* readers' award for 'Best Art Gallery in Cornwall' 2014/15, and has been featured in BBC2's *Coast* series and most recently in Sky Art's *Tate Walks* series.

Porthminster Gallery also works to raise awareness of, and funds for local and national charities including Shelter Box and Breast Cancer Care. through gallery exhibitions and events.

The gallery offers buyers and collectors the easy and affordable incentive to buy original art up to £25,000 at 0% APR over 10 equal 0% APR monthly instalments with the Own Art and Own Art Plus purchase schemes.

For further information, please contact gallery manager H el ene Chaussavoine at the gallery on 01736 795888 info@porthminstergallery.co.uk www.porthminstergallery.co.uk

Porthminster Gallery, Westcott's Quay, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2DY, UK

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