

Press Release: Upcoming Exhibition

Contemporary Ceramics: Form through Fire.

The elemental alchemy of clay dug from the earth, formed by hand, transmuted by fire, is celebrated in this curated show of ceramics by leading, and up-and-coming UK ceramicists.

Porthminster Gallery, St Ives and porthminstergallery.co.uk

4th September – 23rd October 2021

Celebrating the very best of contemporary ceramic practice in the UK today, this major show at Cornwall's award-winning Porthminster Gallery in St Ives features fresh and experimental works by invited young, emerging, and new names to the gallery – notably Björk Haraldsdottir, Ho Lai, and Nicholas Lees, alongside twenty of the gallery's leading permanent ceramicists – including Carina Ciscato; Ruth King; Gabriele Koch; Mitch Pilkington; and Geoffrey Swindell, many of whom are represented in international public collections, such as the V & A Museum, and MOMA New York.

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[Click to request artists' biographies, statements, etc](#)

Porthminster Gallery's upcoming exhibition 'Contemporary Ceramics: Form through Fire' opens at the gallery on Saturday 4th September.

David Durham, the gallery's curator and director says, "The main aim of this show is to celebrate the upsurge in popular interest in contemporary ceramics, which we have experienced over the last couple of years, by showcasing some of the UK's very best practitioners of this most magic and arcane of the arts."

David goes on to say, "I think the public's appetite for ceramics and pottery is, in part, fuelled by media coverage of 20th Century studio potters' works fetching record prices at auctions, as well as of the artist Grayson Perry, and by the popular BBC television series, *Great Pottery Throwdown*.

"The main reason though, I attribute to the 'Covid-19 Factor'", he says, "in that unprecedented numbers of people had the leisure time to explore and discover online, handmade artworks of quality that fulfil the human needs for organic warmth, tactility, and connection, and for beautiful forms to enrich their lives and homes, as a counterpoint to the austere sterility of an increasingly virtual 'digital world'."

Price range of works in the show: £85 to £3,500. Own Art 0% APR purchase plan is available.

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

- Press-ready 300dpi CMYK images of a selection of works featured in the show, are available to download via the following link: [click for press images](#)
- Artists' biographies, statements, etc, can be requested here: info@porthminstergallery.co.uk



Floating Bowls, 2021 by Nicholas Lees (b. 1967)
Parian porcelain, soluble cobalt, soluble iron and soluble copper, max. height 14 cm



Return I and Return II, 2020 by Ho Lai (b. 1993)
porcelain, glazes, h 25 cm x w 10 cm x d. 10 cm



Bright Orange Comma, 2021 by Ruth King (b. 1955)
salt-glazed stoneware, h 20 cm x w 16 cm x d. 10 cm

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Giant Standing Form, 2021 by Gabriele Koch (b. 1948)
stoneware and porcelain, with porcelain slip, h 57 cm x w 20 cm x d 16 cm



Aspiration, 2021 by Mitch Pilkington
hand-built white stoneware, h 52 cm x dia 26 cm

All images: © the Artists
Courtesy the Artists and Porthminster Gallery