

## Celebrating British Ceramics

*Masters of British Studio Pottery + Collect Open*

22–25 February 2018, Saatchi Gallery



Standpipe, 2012 by Alison Britton represented by Marsden Woo Gallery. Photo by Philip Sayer.

The ceramic arts are on the ascendant. Devoted exhibitions are filling the international arts calendar, publishers are rolling out more and more books on studio pottery and the finest works are commanding higher and higher prices at auction. More so than ever before, ceramics is achieving recognition and respect as a craft and art form – not solely in the UK, but throughout the world.

**Collect 2018** will offer fairgoers a global snapshot of modern ceramics, including the return of one of its earliest exhibiting artists: the renowned British ceramicist **Julian Stair**, whose work is now held in more than 30 public collections, is showing with a collection of vessels, courtesy of new exhibitor Oxford Ceramics Gallery. Presenting an entirely different side of ceramics, Joanna Bird Contemporary Collections shows the unfired work of 2017 Woman's Hour Craft Prize winner **Phoebe Cummings**.



(Left) Hand-Built Triangular Tower by Catherine Yarrow represented by Erskine, Hall & Coe.

(Right) Early Tea Set by Lucie Rie represented by Erskine, Hall & Coe.

Belgian gallery Spazio Nobile marks pioneering artist **Piet Stockmans'** 30 years in ceramics with a solo show devoted to his porcelain work. Looking to China, Ting-Ying debuts at Collect with a collection of contemporary Blanc de Chine pieces made in Dehua County, and Milan's ESH Gallery displays the work of several exceptional contemporary Japanese artists, including **Sueharu Fukami**, known for the machine-like perfection of his handmade vessels, and **Yoichiro Kameim**, one of the youngest ever winners of the Grand Prize at the Asahi Ceramics Fair.

## MASTERS OF BRITISH STUDIO POTTERY

Telling the story of ceramic art in Britain in the 20th and 21st centuries, this unique display brings together work from some of the discipline's most important and influential artists, as well as outstanding pieces by contemporary practitioners.

A curatorial collaboration between **Annabelle Campbell**, Head of Exhibitions and Collections at the Crafts Council, and **Helen Richie**, research assistant at the Fitzwilliam Museum's Department of Applied Arts, Masters of British Studio Pottery features selected works from specialist galleries **Marsden Woo Gallery**, **Oxford Ceramics Gallery** and **Erskine Hall & Coe**, as well as significant works on loan from the Crafts Council and Fitzwilliam Museum's own collections.

The objects on display range from landmark early-20th-century works to modern-day sculptural ceramics from bold new talents such as **James Rigler**. Visitors will have the opportunity to see – and potentially purchase – rare pieces from some of the potters whose practice has shaped the evolution of studio ceramics in Britain. Highlights include a rare 1930s tea set by pioneering modernist **Lucie Rie**, as well as works by her assistant-turned-collaborator **Hans Coper**; the 'father of British Studio Pottery' **Bernard Leach**; early work from Australian artist **Gwyn Hanssen Pigott**; and

monumental vessels by **Julian Stair** – whose work was featured in the very first edition of Collect in 2003.

These works are joined by two exceptional pieces chosen by Campbell and Richie from the collections of their respective institutions. The Fitzwilliam Museum displays an **Emmanuel Cooper** bowl from its Goodison Collection. The Crafts Council presents the 1972 work Stack by **Tony Hepburn**, which featured in the very first exhibition of the Crafts Advisory Committee, Ten British Potters – many of the works shown became the foundation of the Crafts Council's national collection.

## ARTISTS

Gordon Baldwin	Gwyn Hanssen Pigott	Lawson Oyekan
Clive Bowen	Ewen Henderson	Colin Pearson
Norah Braden	Tony Hepburn	Katherine Pleydell Bouverie
Alison Britton	Kerry Jameson	Sara Radstone
Joanna Constantinidis	Bernard Leach	Nicholas Rena
Emmanuel Cooper	Jennifer Lee	James Rigler
Hans Coper	Lucie Rie	Martin Smith
Ruth Duckworth	Carol McNicholl	Julian Stair
Philip Eglin	Noa Matsunaga	Catherine Yarrow



Zig Zag Folding Form by Ewen Henderson represented by Erskine, Hall & Coe.

*This display is reactive, reflective, and celebratory. Sitting at the heart of Crafts Council Collections, British studio ceramics provide a cross-generational narrative of innovation, invention and tradition, of evolving, inspiring and exceptional models for practice, contributing to curatorial, critical and creative debates through multiple areas of practice and contexts for craft.'*

– **Annabelle Campbell**, Head of Exhibitions and Collections, Crafts Council

## COLLECT OPEN

Since its introduction in 2011, **Collect Open** has given individual artists an opportunity to push at the boundaries of their practice, to pursue new creative directions and to create new work of a scope and scale they might never otherwise have chance to present.

For 2018, **Jay Osgerby** was invited to join the Crafts Council's Head of Exhibitions and Collections Annabelle Campbell and Project Curator Julia Ravenscroft to select the **14 exhibiting artists**. Together, they have chosen makers from a broad range of disciplines, from textiles and tapestry to woodworking and jewellery art.

Each of them are exploring the power of their discipline and materials to create meaning, whether as a plea for societal change, a platform for personal reflection, an examination of the relationship between **place and material**, or a juxtaposition of **history and modernity**.



Water storage by Katrin Spranger. Photo by Jamie Trounce.

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## ARTISTS

- **Alison Cooke** shows 'Doulton/Bazalgette', an installation using clay excavated from under the Thames foreshore.
  - **Alison Lowry** presents 'Fallen Women' – a cultural tribute to those who suffered in Ireland's Magdalene laundries in textile-like glass forms.
  - **Donna Brennan** creates an enclosed garden, 'Hortus Conclusus' – a series of wearable sculptural art pieces, crafted from a mélange of minerals, stones, gold, bronze and silver, presented against an ethereal backdrop of dye-sublimation floral images printed on aluminium.
  - **Emily Jo Gibbs** hand-stitches portraits of making disciplines, as depicted through the tools they use.
  - **Forest + Found** unveil their largest work to date: 'The Between', an installation in wood, earth and iron exploring the relationship between the physicality of sculpture and the abstract quality of textiles.
  - **Hannah Robson** uses a combination of loom-weaving and lace-making to transforms threads into 'Ersilia' a three-dimensional textile structure inspired by an Italo Calvino story.
  - **Jan Hendzel** presents an installation of furniture and objects that combine digital making methods with the traditional woodworking techniques that have defined the craft for centuries.
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Birch Standing Vessels by Forest + Found.

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- **Jilly Edwards** has woven a chronicle of her last year; a tapestry in 13 sections, each depicting a four-week period, with the emotions she experienced each month represented in different colours and textures.
  - **Juliette Bigley** shows her first ever installation: 'TABLE' – a scaled-up version of her own, topped with a 20-object tableau comprising a wine bottle, jug and water glasses crafted from a mixture of patinated copper, brass, nickel silver and silver.
  - **Katrin Spranger** presents 'Aquatopia' – a collection of objects associated with water, ranging from small drinking vessels to larger bathing-related and storage objects. Their shapes have been inspired by piping and plumbing parts, mostly made from copper and glass.
  - **Oma Space** brings 'NUMEN', the Seoul-based textile studio's first large-scale tapestry installation. Named after the divine energy believed to animate individual objects, NUMEN draws upon natural materials the skills of rural craftspeople across Asia to represent the cycle of nature from birth to death.
  - **Mella Shaw**'s 'HARVEST' is a large-scale installation comprising hundreds of hand-made, smoke-fired ceramic fish and ceramic interpretations of plastic containers, forming an arresting portrait of the impact of plastic pollution in the world's oceans.
  - **Sue Paraskeva** is creating a 'A Circle of Porcelain' – 300 thrown vessels, linked with silver wire. The dimensions make reference to the measurements of the human body and the 250g weight of the human female heart informing the amount of raw clay from which many of the vessels are thrown. Deliberately damaged in some way, each vessel represents an inherent vulnerability in the human condition.
  - **West Dean Tapestry Studio** is translating the work of Irish sculptor **Eva Rothschild** into a 1.4 x 2.6-metre tapestry, which will be unveiled for the first time at Collect Open.
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## Notes for editors | COLLECT 2018

**Dates** Thursday 22 February to Sunday 25 February, 2018

**Press view** 10am, Thursday 22 February

### Location

Saatchi Gallery

King's Road

London SW3 4RY

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## **Opening times**

Thursday 22 February 12noon – 7pm  
Friday 23 February 11am – 9pm  
Saturday 24 February 11am – 6pm  
Sunday 25 February 11am – 6pm

## **Tickets**

Tickets for Collect 2018 are available now, via Eventbrite. Tickets £20; concessions £14.

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## **About the Crafts Council**

Leading innovation in making across the UK, the Crafts Council is the country's foremost authority on contemporary craft in all its forms. Founded in 1971, its role as guardian and champion of national craft practice has evolved to include exploring and enabling new possibilities, making methods and technologies. Having played a pivotal role in the development of some of the UK's most accomplished and respected makers, the Crafts Council is devoted to finding and empowering new talent across the craft sector, creating platforms for emerging makers to show their work, forging connections between people and industries, and providing practical and inspirational resources to support the careers of our next generation of makers.

*[craftscouncil.org.uk](http://craftscouncil.org.uk)*

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For more information about Collect 2018 and the Crafts Council, please contact **Jodi Moss** at  
**jodi@zetteler.co.uk** or on **07910 705147**.

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