



PRESS RELEASE, 11 April 2017

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## Raw and Ragged: Clad exhibition opens 4 May

Ceramic artist Matthew Raw explores migration and the urban landscape at the Ragged School Museum



Extracts of work for Clad by Matthew Raw. Photography by Marina Castagna.

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The **Ragged School Museum** on the banks of Regent's Canal has witnessed almost two centuries of change in East London, as a succession of communities have come and gone, each leaving their own traces on the urban landscape. Even the museum buildings themselves have evolved over the decades: warehouse to schoolhouse, factory to museum. There can therefore be few more appropriate settings to host the artist **Matthew Raw**'s first solo show, **Clad** – a study of urban evolution, and the migrant populations that drive it, in sculptural ceramic tiles.

For 10 days from **4–14 May**, Raw will be displaying eight specially created artworks in clay, terracotta and earthenware tiles. Each piece is a response to the concept of the urban grid – the framework of streets, buildings, paving stones and indeed tiles, that shapes the cities around us – and the ways in which those grids are transformed by the movement of people over time.

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The eight works vary in scale and form. *'Individual Motives'*, is composed of large, hand-rolled tiles featuring details of etchings found in Dr Barnado's Night & Day journal, published at the time he founded the Ragged School. Another piece, *'Panel Discussion'* comprises four three-dimensional tiles inspired by a 15th-century Italian shrine and featuring a quote from Victorian journalist Henry Mayhew in hand-formed clay lettering. *'Fearful Symmetry'* directly addresses the issue of who creates urban grids, while *'Top Table'* explores the connections between empire and exploitation.



Extract from 'Panel Discussion' (left) and extract from 'Individual Motives' (right) by Matthew Raw.

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*'From the start it was clear that Clad was a perfect fit for the Ragged School, where a densely layered history is reflected in the variegated surfaces of the building. Matthew's brilliant combination of technique, innovation and research into the past inspires us to consider these hidden lives and forgotten histories.'*

- Erica Davies, Director of Ragged School Museum

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Before the exhibition opens, **Matthew Raw** will be transporting the works from his studio in Hoxton to the **Ragged School Museum** by a converted barge along Regent's Canal. This unusual journey represents a link to the history of Raw's craft – Britain's father of industrial ceramics, Josiah Wedgwood, was instrumental in the development of Britain's canals as they were the safest means of transporting his pottery. The canal trip also celebrates the physical connection between the studio and the museum – a 2.5-hour voyage through the East London landscape whose changing face has inspired and influenced both the exhibition and the venue hosting it.

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*'I think it's important to understand the past so that you can respect where the future is taking us.'*

- Matthew Raw, ceramic artist

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Extract from 'Flex' (left) and extract from 'In/Out' (right) by Matthew Raw.  
Photography by Marina Castagna.

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The artist will also be hosting two ceramic workshops on the **Fordham Gallery** barge during the exhibition – including one with a local school – to introduce participants to crafting tiles and encourage them to explore for themselves the themes of the exhibition: the legacies we leave during our time in the neighbourhood.



Matthew Raw at Studio Manifold making the work for Clad. Photography by Marina Castagna.

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For more information about **Clad** or **Matthew Raw**, and images of his work, please contact me (Jodi Moss) at [jodi@zetteler.co.uk](mailto:jodi@zetteler.co.uk) or +44 (0)7910 705147

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**Clad**  
by Matthew Raw  
[mraw.co.uk](http://mraw.co.uk)

Arts Council England have supported artist Matthew Raw to make a new body of sculptural ceramic work to form an exhibition entitled Clad. It is held at the Ragged School Museum in Mile End, East London and is free to the public. The eight new pieces were made at Raw's Studio Manifold in Hoxton, and transported on a barge down the Regent's Canal to the Museum. Clad will explore our individual roles in the changing nature of the areas in which we live, touching on notions of perception, transience and the 'hand-made'.

**Exhibition**  
04 – 14 May 2017  
10am – 5pm

**Location**  
Ragged School Museum  
46 – 50 Copperfield Road  
London, E3 4RR  
Nearest tube: Mile End

For further information  
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[jodi@zetteler.co.uk](mailto:jodi@zetteler.co.uk)





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## Notes for editors

### About Matthew Raw

Matthew Raw is a ceramic artist who seeks to push the possibilities of clay to communicate, and to challenge public perceptions of what it can do as a material. Based in East London, he is a co-founder of the Manifold Studio in Hoxton, an artistic collective of nine RCA graduates, and has participated in group shows, collaborative projects and exhibitions in London, Munich, Copenhagen, Detroit and more. He collected a Jerwood Makers award in 2014 to make 'The Shifting Spirit', a full-size creation of a tiled pub exterior now on permanent display at the Five Points Brewery in East London. He is currently working with architecture collective Assemble for an Art on the Underground project at Seven Sisters Underground station. Matthew also runs practical public workshops in ceramics via [rawceramicworkshops.com](http://rawceramicworkshops.com).

[mraw.co.uk](http://mraw.co.uk)

Instagram: [matthewrawworksinc](https://www.instagram.com/matthewrawworksinc)



Matthew Raw at the Ragged School Museum. Photography by Marina Castagna.

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