



A Language of Clay



Lisa Krigel
Group City

A Language of Clay

This is a group show specifically curated for New Brewery Arts. It is a direct development of a long-running and popular initiative called The Language of Clay, which has comprised a series of solo exhibitions touring a network of galleries across Wales.

A Language of Clay presents ceramic work from six artists; Justine Allison, Anne Gibbs, Kate Haywood, Lisa Krigel, Ingrid Murphy and Zoe Preece.

Highly regarded in their respective fields, each artist explores the material and aesthetic qualities of clay from different perspectives. Their practices are richly diverse, though are united by a tenacious and skills-based approach. Whether motivated by function, form, social interaction or personal experience, each artist undertakes her practice with a keen sense of materiality.

They each celebrate what are, arguably, everyday or familiar objects or activities. Zoe's porcelain works tenderly capture kitchen still lives, marking moments in time. Her pieces are informed by and evoke a sense of intimacy. Time shared over a cup of tea or supper at home is very personal and her work recollects those moments. It posits a reminder for us to acknowledge these transient punctuations in our everyday; maybe even to appreciate the repeat process of washing up.

Lisa unites her passion for food and ceramics in creating her functional sculptures. Deconstructing one of her ceramic towers in order to use it for lunch brings the work to life and celebrates the daily sharing of food and company. Inspired by Brutalist architecture, the profiles of water towers, multi-storeys and high-rise living are readily observed in her tableware stacks.

Justine's delicate porcelain pieces belie the phenomenal, technical skill demanded in their making. The play of light within, onto and through her vessels is a dynamic component in how Justine designs her work. She brings a quiet reverence to functional objects, seeing beauty in their form. Kate's porcelain works have both fragility and weight of presence. They are not made as copies of collected objects but are made through a learned knowledge of specific objects. Their making is informed by Kate's sensitivity to objects, to them being identifiers of place or purpose. A single piece may evoke a ritual that is centuries old or it may reference a toy held dear years ago.

Anne responds to found objects in her practice, encompassing them into her drawings and ceramic sculptures. She uses texture and form evocatively; creating bone china pieces that might stir memories of a particular place or experiences of a particular activity. Making connections is absolutely integral to Ingrid's practice as well. Be it connections across time, through the provenance of works or across places, through the interactivity of her works. Ingrid generously collaborates to explore the possibilities of technology through her ceramic making, introducing components that add to the story or engagement of her works.

From the surprising to the familiar, A Language of Clay richly illustrates the wealth of deeply rooted, contemporary ceramics practice. There are points of tension and points of conversation here, between the ceramic works themselves and between the hands that made them and the hands that might hold them.

Ceri Jones, Curator



Justine Allison hand builds with porcelain. Her works seemingly hold and emanate light. The aesthetic of form is paramount to her making; many of her pieces stem from functional forms. justineallison.blogspot.com

Anne Gibbs makes sculptural works in bone china. Drawing is pivotal to her practice, as are found objects. Both are incorporated into her fine ceramic assemblages. annegibbs.co.uk

Kate Haywood creates exquisite white and black porcelain objects through a combination of techniques. Research rooted, her works distil a wide gamut of influences and considerations. katehaywood.co.uk

Lisa Krigel works in stoneware to create carefully constructed towers of domestic ceramics. Inspired by Brutalist architecture and a love of food, her practice is social and engaging. lisakrigel.com

Ingrid Murphy produces interactive works that combine intuition with FabLab technologies. Inquisitive and appealing, much of her work explores connectivity, of people, place and time. ingridmurphy.com

Zoe Preece works meticulously with plaster and porcelain to make the most poetic of forms from everyday tableaux. Capturing passing moments, her work is tender and visceral. zoepreece.com

cover images clockwise from top left:
Ingrid Murphy; Zoe Preece; Anne Gibbs;
Lisa Krigel; Kate Haywood; Justine Allison

Acknowledgements

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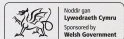


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Zoe Preece

An Archive of Longing (Material Presence), detail



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