

Tristan Hoare



Shinichi Sawada, *Untitled (131)* (2008), wood fired ceramic, 27 x 15 x 15 cm.

# Cracked

Curated by Leonie Mir

## EXHIBITION

23<sup>RD</sup> SEPT - 29<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2021

TUES - SAT, 11AM - 6PM

TRISTAN HOARE  
6 FITZROY SQUARE  
LONDON W1T 5DX

# Cracked

Tristan Hoare is delighted to present *Cracked*, an exhibition curated by Leonie Mir and dedicated to hand-moulded ceramics made without the use of a wheel. By removing the structure provided by a wheel, the exhibition focuses on contemporary artists who construct, sculpt and mould clay, demonstrating what can be achieved with 'a little bit of mud and a little bit of genius' (Paul Gauguin).

Paul Gauguin, an early advocate of ceramic art, personally promoted hand-moulding in an effort to replace the potter at his wheel with 'intelligent hands which could impart the life of a figure to a vase, while remaining true to the character of the material'.

There is a sensuousness about the process of manipulating clay by hand, accentuated by the speed at which the creator has to move in this quick-drying medium. The process demands impulsive decisions and to some extent, the artist never has full control. The last step is the ultimate act of unpredictability: placing work in the kiln and allowing the flames to imbue the final colour and texture.

Among the many artists we are exhibiting, we are excited to be including Shinichi Sawada's ceramic creatures. Their eccentric, thorny exteriors are a mixture of historical totems and mass-manufactured motifs from popular culture. Powerful in a different way are Seni Awa Camara's multi-headed figures made in rural Senegal on an open fire. The figures exude charisma, shaping stories dreamed or imagined by the artist.

Equally unusual are Myung Jin Kim's surreal forms inspired by nature which combine drawing, painting and sculpting in terracotta and make use of the ancient technique of building with coils.

Shawanda Corbett's smooth and vibrantly coloured pairs are based on people she knows. One shape suggesting the personality, the other the appearance of the person and are made listening to different jazz records whose influence seeps into the appearance. Luster and gold are added to highlight the status and worth of the individual in the artist's eyes. Similarly skilful but more mischievous in her storytelling is Alma Berrow who uses ashtrays, cigarette butts and the paraphernalia of a good night-out to set the scene.

Also included in the exhibition are works by New York based artist Peter Schlesinger who has been hand-moulding clay for over 30 years. He creates work using unusual shapes and glazes, combining his own visual language with elements of antique ironwork, bronzes and traditional ceramic forms. Schlesinger's ceramics possess a personality of their own and are vibrant contemporary works with a living connection to the past. Likewise, Sterling Ruby has a relationship with clay stretching back 20 years. His instinctive childlike explorations in clay are refreshingly unrestricted by the theory and concepts he learnt as an art student.

In recent years, more artists have begun working in clay and exploring its potential, presenting us with an opportunity to show their work alongside artists who have a longer relationship with the material and more experience of moulding by hand. The huge range of different approaches, materials, glazes, sizes and techniques will make this a vibrant and visually dynamic autumn exhibition!

# Troy Town Art Pottery

At the same time as *Cracked*, Tristan Hoare is delighted to be hosting the Troy Town Shop!

Founded in 2014 by Aaron Angell, Troy Town Art Pottery is a ceramic workshop which has hosted over 80 artists in residence, acting as Aaron's studio as well as a ceramics hub in Hoxton. It also provides a home to Hoxton Gardenware, a youth-led non-profit enterprise producing small-batch terracotta pieces inspired by British garden pottery.

The Troy Town Shop will be offering ceramics by the studio and Hoxton Gardenware from £30 to £300 and 60% of the proceeds will go to supporting Troy Town's non-profit enterprises.



## Confirmed Artists

Aaron Angell  
Rafaela de Ascanio  
Sam Bakewell  
Alma Berrow  
Amy Bessone  
John Booth  
Alison Britton  
Seni Awa Camara  
Tancredi di Carcaci  
Shawanda Corbett  
Tommaso Corvi-Mora  
Karin Gulbran  
Kazunori Hamana  
Ruan Hoffmann  
Richard WM Hudson  
MyungJin Kim  
Setsuko Klossowska de Rola  
Takuro Kuwata  
Matthew Lutz-Kinoy  
Christabel MacGreevy  
Fausto Melotti  
Mai-Thu Perret  
Brian Rochefort  
Sterling Ruby  
Shinichi Sawada  
Peter Schlesinger  
Alev Ebüzziya Siesbye  
Katy Stubbs  
Kaori Tatebayashi  
Ivan Terestchenko  
Alessandro Twombly  
Paloma Varga Weisz  
Sophie von Hellerman  
Hannah Wilke  
  
amongst others ...

## Leonie Mir

Leonie Mir is a London-based art advisor and curator for 20th and 21st century art with a passion for ceramics. After more than 20 years in the art market, Leonie started her own business in 2020, focusing on curatorial and creative projects, as well as advising private clients. Leonie curated and organised a pioneering contemporary and modern ceramics auction, the first of its kind at Christie's in 2018.

## The Gallery

Founded in 2009, TRISTAN HOARE is a multi-layered gallery focusing on young and established artists working in a variety of mediums. African photography, glass, painting and drawing are all areas of interest, as well as a developing passion for ceramics.

Each year we curate an ambitious exhibition with an overarching theme. *Geometrica* (2018), *Botanica* (2019) and *Folds* (2021) enabled us to collaborate with multiple artists and galleries, combining work from BC to the present day. Exhibitions are executed with the intention of telling a story and connecting with both seasoned collectors and people less familiar with the art world.

The gallery is located in a Grade I listed Georgian house in Fitzroy Square.

## Press Enquiries

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Tuesday - Saturday  
11am - 6pm