



Art in Action

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Ceramics

The year the Ceramics section features a collection of twenty five artists, working in a wide range of sizes, styles and techniques and all demonstrating their art to the public. In addition there is also an exhibition of work from the artists who teach ceramics in the practical classes tent. Highlights include:

- **Gwen Bainbridge** and her highly embellished porcelain vessels using her own glamorous 'Elizabethan' dressmaking style
- **Richard Godfrey** and his range of deep and vibrant coloured pieces showing the public how he hand builds his exciting and unusual forms from slabs of clay
- **Ashraf Hanna**, winner the prestigious Best of the Best prize at Art in Action 2008, will be demonstrating his distinctive, linear carving techniques
- **Russell Coates**, practical class teacher, who designs his sea creatures and forests in the Japanese Kutani style will have domestic and collectable ware on display
- **Steve Woodhead**, practical classes teacher and author of 'The Teapot Book', will exhibit his fun and quirky designs in domestic ware

Sherry Moran, organiser of the Ceramics section, is always keen to keep the artists on their toes and this year she has set them the challenge of making a work in response to TS Elliot's poem 'The Four Quartets'

"At the still point of the turning world. Neither flesh nor fleshless;
Neither from nor towards; at the still point, there the dance is"

The resulting work will be called 'The Still Point' and will be on sale alongside the participants other work. The artists have responded enthusiastically to this challenge, noting that while it is common to work to a theme in painting or sculpture, it is less likely in ceramics. Is there a 'still point' to be found when creating a piece, is it in the hand, the clay, the wheel? We look forward to their deliberations.

Other artists appearing include **Linda Bloomfield** with her porcelain teapots, cups and jugs. **Alyson Cook** will be demonstrating how she creates her cylindrical layered vessels and **Eddie Curtis** will show how he replicates the fissures, fractals and cracks seen in the landscape about us. **Rob Sollis**, from Portugal, is a first timer at Art in Action and an original member of the famous Dartington Pottery Workshop, he will be demonstrating his beautiful spherical raku work.

Bridget Drakeford's porcelain is inspired by Eastern cultures, while **Françoise Dufayard**, from France, will be demonstrating slab making and various slip decoration techniques. **Penny Fowler** will demonstrate slip casting, inlay and hand carving techniques used to make her ceramic forms in bone china and porcelain clays and **Sue Hanna** (wife of Ashraf) will bring her sculptural ceramics.

The very popular **Peter Hayes** returns with his raku sculpture and will have the raku kiln blazing away in a firing marquee right outside the tent. **Paul Jackson** brings his vessels decorated with nude and abstract images. **Charlotte Jones** makes self-coloured stoneware and **Tony Laverick** will be throwing and turning pieces in porcelain.

Chris Lewis will be demonstrating his technique for constructing and decorating a ceramic garden seat and **Laurence McGowan** will be demonstrating brush decoration on stoneware using traditional majolica techniques. **Keith Munro** will bring his smoke fired ceramic vases and bowls inlaid with gold, using a combination of ancient and modern techniques, and **Fritz Roßmann**, from Germany, will work with porcelain whilst talking about its history.

There will be four potters in the centre of the marquee all working on a large scale. **Philip Simmonds** will be hand coiling; **Nic Collins** will also be coiling and creating large pieces on a traditional kick wheel. **John Stroomer**, from Australia, specialises in the often volatile and elusive Crystalline Glaze, a technique which is widely regarded as one of the most challenging glaze techniques a potter can endeavour to master, he'll be demonstrating this on some large pieces. The fourth is the aforementioned **Ashraf Hanna**, winner of Best of the Best last year with his clean, architectural sculptural works.

Ruthanne Tudball throws with very soft clay on the wheel, manipulating forms to achieve a lively organic freshness. All of her work is soda vapour glazed in a gas/wood kiln. **Juliet Walters** will be demonstrating the contrasting techniques of carving and burnishing whilst showing how her containment pieces are constructed and formed and **Sasha Wardell** will be plaster mould making and demonstrating her various decorating techniques.

Visitors can also participate in a wide variety of practical classes in ceramics including pottery throwing and hand building. After which they can visit the Materials and Publications section where they can buy and read about everything needed to get 'started'.

For those who would rather sit back, two lectures will be given by **Jane Gardiner**, deputy director at Sotheby's UK and a specialist in early European ceramics and glass and 18th century European design, on Early English Pottery and Wedgwood.

General Information

The first Art in Action took place in 1977, featuring around 50 artists. Since then it has grown significantly and is now an annual pilgrimage for anyone interested in the visual arts. Visitors can learn or buy from the 150 artists and craftsmen who recreate their studios in one of the many Art in Action marquees and demonstrate their expertise in Painting, Sculpture, Drawing and Printmaking, Ceramics, Calligraphy and Illustration, Glass, Metalwork and Jewellery, Nature in Art, Textiles, Woodwork and (new this year) Mexican Arts. At Waterperry, visitors can also learn new creative skills at practical classes organised for children and adults, half of which will be run by some of the UK's most prestigious art colleges including University of the Arts (Wimbledon, Chelsea, & Camberwell Colleges of Art) and the Prince's School of Traditional Art. They can also browse the Craft Market where more than 100 designer-makers sell quality goods.

In addition, Art in Action offers fine music, performing artists and storytelling for children. There are lectures organised by NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies) in Asian Textiles, Exotic Woods and Furniture, Victorian Art and Glass and Early English pottery. There are guided tours of the beautiful Waterperry gardens and also of the exquisite frescoes on the walls of Waterperry House that were completed in 2006 - a 10-year project. There is also a wide range of refreshments: cream teas from the Pear Tree Restaurant, a good selection of wines, champagne and Pimm's served on the lawn in front of the house and numerous organic and artisan food stalls throughout the site. Art in Action is truly a celebration of creativity as well as a great day out. People come year after year – often, they say, as much for the atmosphere as for the works on show

Event details

Venue: Art in Action
Waterperry House, Near Wheatley
OXFORD OX33 1JZ

Website: www.artinaction.org.uk

Tel: 020 7381 3192

Date/time: 16-19 July 2009, open 10am-5.30pm daily

Tickets: Adults £15 (Booked online £14.00)
Senior citizens £12 (Booked online £11.00)
Concessions £7 (Booked online £6.00)
Child (9-17 years) £5 (Booked online £4.00)
Under-9s free
Family and season tickets available

Car parking free

Party rates for pre-booked minibuses and a limited number of coaches by arrangement – contact the office (020 7381 3192) in advance.

Note to editors

Art in Action has an extensive photo library available for the press.

Further information

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