



CERAMICS | YOUNG MAKERS

Ones to watch

Last year's *British Ceramics Biennial's* FRESH section was rich in prospective stars for the future in ceramics. We asked three of the makers featured to tell us about their work



'My sculptural work is akin to the vessel in the way it explores the generosity of internal space' **Tessa Eastman**

Tessa Eastman is a ceramic artist who creates hand-built forms that explore the relationship between the orderly and the haphazard

Themes are crucial to my work and I explore opposing elements such as symmetry and disorder to raise questions about the perfectly imperfect state of humanity. I'm interested in the dynamism produced when repetitive parts in growing systems mutate, and the parallels between this and the trials and tribulations of life. I believe the otherworldliness of natural phenomena assists in helping transport viewers away from the mundane, where grouped works possess a sensuous physicality and embodied character. I particularly like it when natural organisms grow and metamorphose in my work, as this reflects divine order.

I entered the biennial as I feel my sculptural work is akin to the vessel in the way it explores the generosity of internal space, where the void is celebrated as a giver of life. The pieces I presented at the BCB demonstrated my commitment to the challenge of using complex hand-building methods to

produce ambiguous sculptures. I relish the construction of repetitive shapes within a piece, where every element is slightly different.

I studied at Harrow for my BA, and at the Royal College of Art for my MA, which was an intense period of focus. I valued being around talented, driven individuals and was hungry for the challenge, having worked for seven years as a ceramics technician and teacher alongside my practice. I'm currently developing a series of curious sculptures that raise questions about emotional transience, shifting from geometry to irregularity, order to chaos and back.'

Tessa teaches pottery to all ages and abilities in studios around London. Discover more on her work and teaching at tessaeastman.com

