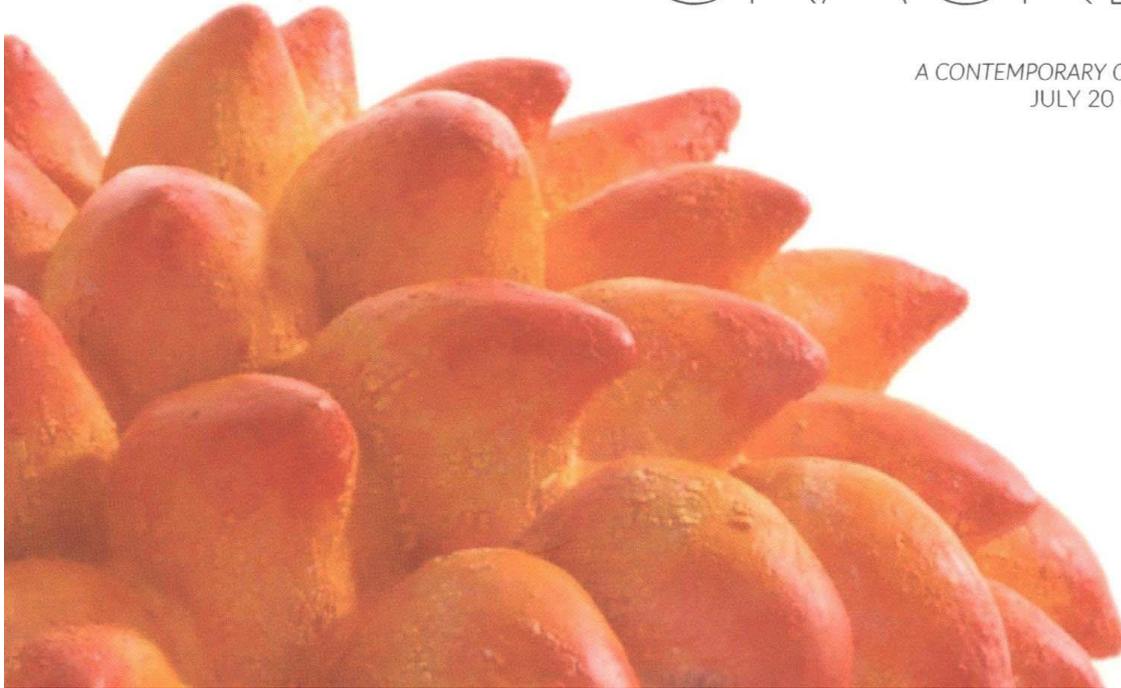


CRACKED

A CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS SHOW
JULY 20 - JULY 23, 2017



CRACKED

FEATURING:
RANTI BAM
LAURA BIRD
LIV & DOM CAVE-SUTHERLAND
TESSA EASTMAN
IKUKO IWAMOTO
LUCY KIRK

PRIVATE VIEW: THURSDAY JULY 20, 6-9PM
EXHIBITION: JULY 20 - JULY 23, 11-6PM

50 GOLBORNE ROAD,
LONDON, W10 5PR

WWW.COURTENAYMOON.COM

CRACKED July 20 – July 23, 2017

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, JULY 20 | 6-9PM

EXHIBITION: FRIDAY, JULY 21 – SUNDAY, JULY 23 | 11-7PM

50 GOLBORNE ROAD LONDON, W10 5PR

Courtenay Moon is excited to present Cracked, a group exhibition of contemporary ceramic art. The show features new and recent work by artists Ranti Bam, Laura Bird, Tessa Eastman, Ikuko Iwamoto, Lucy Kirk and twin sister duo Liv & Dom to present a dynamic picture of how artists are working with ceramics today.

The exhibition profiles a series of playful, challenging and intriguing forms created by a diverse group of female artists working across the ceramic medium. The works in Cracked attempt to catch a static glimpse of the different artists' varying approaches to the role of clay as a creative vehicle. As an ancient craft, ceramic production is one of the earliest forms of human expression. Ceramics have long fascinated artists from ancient Greek amphoras adorned with mythical gods to explorations by artists such as Pablo Picasso and Grayson Perry. Cracked argues the importance of the role of clay as an invaluable medium in contemporary art, rearranging the viewers focus from the objects function to its creative form.

The pioneering show "Ceramic Sculpture: Six Artists" at the Whitney Museum of American Art (December 9, 1981 – February 7, 1982), presented the work of Peter Voukos, John Mason, Kenneth Price, Robert Arneson, David Gilhooly and Richard Shaw, and spearheaded the dispute against the stereotypes that look at ceramic art as craft. "Ceramic Sculpture: Six Artists" was the first exhibition to explore in depth the primary artists in this field and their work in clay brought the medium into the mainstream of contemporary sculpture. Exhibition curator Susan Foley was calling for ceramic art to be judged by the same criteria as contemporary painting, sculpture, photography, and other fine art mediums, and as echoed in Cracked, it focused on six artists who developed a distinctive sculptural statement with clay.

Ranging from intricate creations to whimsical figures and forms, each individual work selected for the show examines shape, pattern and texture within a vibrant palette. The range of technique, colours and manipulations cast a spotlight on the individuality of these women. Their wide-ranging aesthetics and techniques display a commitment to risk and experimentation that is backed up by a competence in technical skill.

In a world consumed by technology, we present something real and honest. The touch of the makers' hand and the feel of their expression is revealed on every surface. We admire the opportunity for character in the work where no two things can be the same.

RANTI BAM

Ranti Bam was born in Lagos, Nigeria and raised in London. She received an MA from The Cass Faculty of Art, Architecture and Design where her thesis was entitled 'How can art and design help man understand his inseparability from his environment?' The research allowed her to make tangible her love of Eastern philosophy, etymology and clay. After extensive travels, including a two-year pause in Greece, she was accepted onto the renowned City Lit ceramics diploma course. Bam has maintained a consistent and dedicated studio practice since graduating in 2015. Working with clay in its natural state, she embellishes the surface with colours, patterns and textures. She works intuitively, collaging freely cut slabs of clay around a thrown base. Ranti Bam's work has been exhibited across London and Lagos and is currently on display at The New Craftsman in Mayfair.

LAURA BIRD

Laura Bird is an illustrator and potter based in Hackney, East London. With a background in illustration, a strong focus of narrative, character and pattern can be found in each ceramic piece. Laura revels in the ability of every pot to tell a story, in both the decoration and form as well as becoming part of our daily lives. Drawing influences from the ceramics of ancient civilisation, and adding a touch of her own humour, Laura's beautiful objects, curiosities and ornaments are clever and easy on the eye. Each piece is completely unique and decorated by hand, using a variety of clays. Glazes and colour are centric to Laura's work which she is constantly developing and testing.

LIV AND DOM CAVE-SUTHERLAND

Liv & Dom is work from the combined imaginations of Liv and Dom Cave - Sutherland, identical twins from Sussex, UK. With their conceptual boldness and ambitious experimentation Liv and Dom's clay pieces, in their hot pink tones often covered in glitter, are quirkily assembled pieces with a naughty disposition. Figures hold cheerful appearances, with suggestive leg positioning's and a cheeky grin. Their work is stocked on multiple online platforms as well as in stores worldwide across the UK, USA, Belgium and New Zealand.

TESSA EASTMAN

Tessa Eastman is an award winning British ceramic artist with over twenty years' experience of working with clay. She lives and works in London UK. Tessa graduated from the University of Westminster in 2006 with a BA Honours in Ceramics, and in 2015 gained a MA in Ceramics & Glass from one of the world's most reputable design schools, The Royal College of Art. Tessa's work appears curiously alive with movement. Building her shapes by hand, she draws inspiration from organic forms as seen through a microscope. Her dynamic work is at the vanguard of the British contemporary ceramic art scene and in her relatively short career she has been able to impress many with her originality, skill and above all with a daring new approach to the art form. Tessa's meticulously hand built cloud

bundles and complex crystal formations have found a serious following among collectors and gallery owners and her sculptures have been commissioned and presented by the financial firms Abacus and Gresham Private Equity.

Tessa won the Craft Emergency Award, with an exhibition at Aspex Gallery (Portsmouth, 2016). She has been exhibiting in the UK and abroad since 2005 and notable shows include Puls Contemporary Ceramics at Gallery Puls (Brussels, 2017) and Collect: The International Art Fair for Contemporary Objects with Fiona Barratt-Campbell Interiors at the Saatchi Gallery (London, 2017). Tessa's work has been selected for Biennials including the British Ceramics Biennial at the Old Spode Factory (Stoke-on-Trent, 2015) and the Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale (Korea, 2017). Tessa has been teaching since 2005 and currently runs the sculpture course at The Heatherley School of Art, one of London's oldest Independent art colleges where all tutors are practicing artists. Tessa was also recently shortlisted for the 2017 Young Masters Maylis Grand Ceramics prize.

IKUKO IWAMOTO

Ikuko started making ceramics in 1990 at Tezukayama College in Japan. Following a move to London she completed an undergraduate degree in ceramics at the Camberwell College of Arts, followed by an MA in Ceramics & Glass at The Royal College of Art. At the RCA Ikuko started to make functional pieces using a slip casting technique using plaster moulds. All Ikuko's work is made from porcelain and every part of the decoration, including every single spike, is individually crafted and attached by hand. Ikuko's work is informed by her own curiosity about invisible things such as sounds, music and the microscopic world - cells, genes and organic forms. The meticulous level of detail with which she works is spot on for a subject matter that includes the tiniest of sea creatures and the minutest of micro-organisms.

Ikuko has exhibited extensively both in the UK and Japan and in, March 2009, was awarded the Ceramic Review Prize for Innovation at the RCA's Ceramic Art London exhibition.

LUCY KIRK

Lucy Kirk is a London based ceramicist and illustrator. Graduating in Illustration from Brighton University in 2012, Lucy has gone on to develop her ceramic practice, whilst working on a range of illustration projects, including a range of silk scarves in collaboration with Alexander McQueen. This joy for making is manifested in the resulting, revered works. Lucy's strong, muscly figures, often adorned with Sailor Jerry style tattoos, create a curious and playful dialogue between one another.

COURTENAY MOON

Courtenay is an independent curator based in London, specialising in contemporary art and ceramics. Born and inspired by her Caribbean roots, she was educated in the UK and has recently moved back to London after a stint in New York obtaining her MA in Art Business & Contemporary Art at Sotheby's Institute of Art.