

**C L I F F O R D
C H A N C E**



STRANGENESS IN NATURE:
CERAMICS BY TESSA EASTMAN
17 DECEMBER 2018 – 14 JUNE 2019

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'I aim for my forms to be beautiful in a bizarre manner so as to aid the appreciation of life's absurdities where things don't always make sense.'

Tessa Eastman's work is at the vanguard of the contemporary ceramic art scene and in her relatively short career she has been able to impress with her originality, skill and above all with a daring new approach to the art form. Built from clay, using various hand-building techniques, Tessa draws inspiration from organic forms as seen through a microscope or in the skies. The artist explores the strangeness of growth of natural phenomena in which systems flow and digress from an intended pattern.

'I love the fact that clouds have a duality to them. They can be both quite negative and dark, but also fluffy, soft and porous. They are never permanent, but always changing and fleeting. I try and capture this metamorphosing shape (of clouds) in my work. What I love about ceramics is that you can make something so solid, permanent and tangible from something that is so intangible and is always changing in nature. To try and fix it, make it permanent, feels very grounding.'

Tessa's ceramics, inspired by the strange, otherworldliness of nature, explore the darker side of life and, as such, their creation is a brave act. The artist foregoes what is *pretty* and classical in the history of ceramics, for objects that are uncanny and bizarre. The idiosyncratic shape of her objects, a combination of solid and open forms, bulbous and interlaced, accretive and geometric, weighs with the attention she gives to their surfaces. Coarse and smooth, soft and glossy, pristine and weathered, textures are presented in heightened colours, uniquely created by Tessa following intensive research into developing her own glazes.

Clifford Chance would like to thank Tessa for giving us the opportunity to display a small grouping of her fascinating, intriguing and beguiling ceramics in our reception, so that the innovation and creativity that lies at the heart of her artistic practice can be appreciated by all – even if her ceramics *'don't always make sense'*.

Nigel Frank

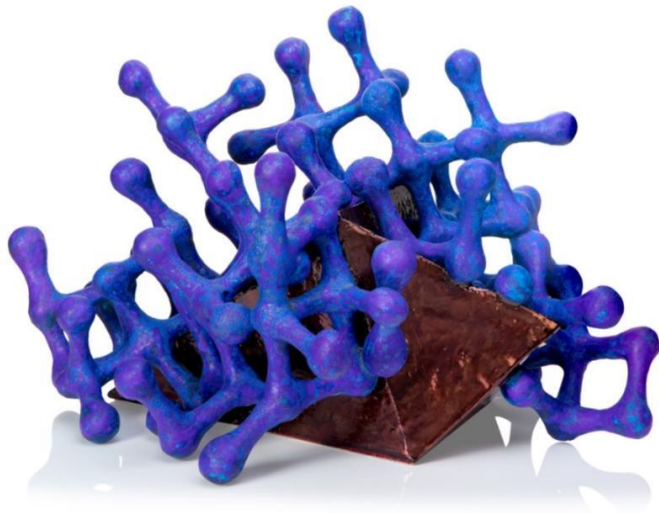
Clifford Chance art collection



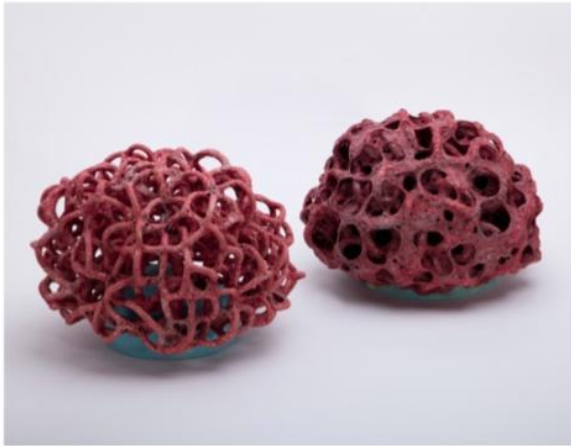
Cloudburst 2018
multiple glazed stoneware
30 x 31 x 20cm



Bleeding Rain Cloud 2018
multiple glazed stoneware
20 x 20 x 20cm



Purple Crystal in Midnight Element 2018
multiple glazed stoneware
55 x 44 x 34cm



Low & High Density Red Cloud 2015-18
multiple glazed stoneware
23 x 23 x 20cm each

BIOGRAPHY



Tessa Eastman is an award winning British ceramic artist with over twenty years' experience of working with clay. 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.

She worked in London and France from 2002 to 2007 as an assistant to renowned ceramicist Kate Malone who featured in the *Great British Pottery Throw Down* BBC TV series. Tessa has been teaching since 2005 and currently runs ceramic courses at the Kiln Rooms, an open access ceramic studio, and at the Heatherley School of Art, one of London's oldest independent art colleges.

Tessa was shortlisted for the *Young Masters Maylis Grand Ceramics Prize* in 2017 and won the *Craft Emergency Award* in 2016, an open submission group exhibition featuring the work of designers and makers from across the globe, with a solo exhibition at Aspex Gallery in Portsmouth, 2018. 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* at London's Saatchi Gallery with FBC London in 2017 and the

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Tessa Eastman will speak about her work at Clifford Chance on Tuesday, 12 February 2019, at 5.30pm. If you would like to attend, contact Jane.Hindley@cliffordchance.com

Front cover image: **Tessa Eastman** *Cocoon Cloud Copper Gold* 2018 multiple glazed stoneware 65 x 41 x 21 cm
All works © the Artist. Photography by Juliet Sheath Photography

The ceramics are on loan from Tessa Eastman's studio. All works are available for sale

For further information, contact:
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or www.tessaeastman.com

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CLIFFORD CHANCE

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Tessa was shortlisted for the *Young Master Crafts Grand Ceramics Prize* in 2017 and won the *Cliff Chance Award* in 2016, with a solo exhibition at Aspex Gallery in Portsmouth, 2018. She has been exhibiting in the UK and abroad since 2005. Tessa's work has been selected for Biennials including the *British Ceramics Biennial* at the Old Spoke Factory (Stoke-on-Trent, 2016) and she received an honourable mention at the *Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale* (Korea, 2017).

She set up her first studio in 2005 in West London in the Old Gas Works. In 2015 she joined Manifold, an East London collective founded in 2010 by a group of emerging artists and designers from The Royal College of Art. In 2017 she was granted a space at Cookpt Arts, the UK's only business incubator for craftspeople.

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