

Throwing Rebecca 02/04/2020

Lucie Rie Potter

I hope you are feeling well and looking after yourself. This hand out is continuing our journey around the throwing garage and looking at the featured Potters.

Lucie Gomperz was born in Vienna on 16/03/1902, the youngest child of Benjamin Gomperz, a Jewish medical doctor who was a consultant to Sigmund Freud. She studied pottery under Micheal Powolny at the Vienna Kunstgewerbeschule, a school of arts and crafts. In which she enrolled in 1922.

She set up her first studio in Vienna in 1925 and exhibited the same year at the Paris International Exhibition, she was influenced by Neoclassicism, Jadenstil, modernism and Japaonism.

In 1937 she won a silver medal at the Paris International Exhibition (the same exhibition Pablo Picasso painted Guernica) She had her first solo show as a potter in 1949.

In 1938 she fled Nazi Austria and emigrated to England, where she settled in London. During and after the war she made ceramic buttons, umbrella handles and jewellery, some of which is on display at the Victoria and Albert Museum and as part of the Lisa Sainsbury Collection at the University of East Anglia, Norwich.

In 1946 she hired Hans Coper, a young man to help her fire the buttons. Although Coper was interested in learning sculpture, she sent him to a potter called Herbert Mathews, who taught him how to make pots on the wheel. Rie and Cooper exhibited together in 1948. Coper became a partner in Rie's studio, where he remained until Coper's death in 1981.

Rie's studio was at 18 Albion Mews, a narrow street of converted stables near Paddington. She invited many people to her studio for tea and cake. The studio remained almost unchanged during the 50 years she occupied it and has been reconstructed in the Victoria and Albert Museum, ceramic gallery.

Rie was a friend of Bernard Leach, one of the leading figures in the British studio pottery in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Her brightly coloured, delicate, modernist pottery stands apart from Leache's subdued, rustic, oriental work. She taught at Camberwell College of Art from 1960 to 1972.

She received several awards for her work and exhibited with great success. Her most famous creations are vases, bottles and bowls, which drew inspiration from Japan. These and other works such as buttons she bequeathed to her close friend the Japanese designer, Issey Miyake.

She stopped making pottery in 1990, when she suffered the first of a series of

strokes. She died at home in London on 01/04/1995, aged 93 years old. There is a blue plaque at her former home, on 18 Albion Mews, Paddington, London.

