

Throwing, Rebecca 23/04/2020

Walter Keeler

Welcome back to Core, I hope you are all feeling well and looking after your selves. This hand out is continuing our journey around the throwing studio and looking at the featured potters.

Walter Keeler was born in 1942, in London. He is a studio potter. He was Professor of Ceramics at the University of the West of England from 1994 to 2002. Keeler makes salt glazed pottery influenced by early Staffordshire Cream ware.

He attended Harrow School of Art from 1958 to 1963 where he was trained by Michael Casson. Keeler established his first pottery at Bledlow Bridge, Buckinghamshire in 1965 and in 1976 he moved his studio to Penholt, Wales.

Keeler's work is held in a number of public collections including the Victoria and Albert Museum, National Museum, Wales, American Craft Museum, New York, County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, Museum of Art, Houston, USA and Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.

Walter Keeler is president of the South Wales Potters and was named Welsh Artist of the year in 2007.



Here is a photo of a Walter Keeler jug

Salt Glazed Pottery

Salt glazed pottery is usually stoneware clay and firing temperatures. It has a glossy translucent and slightly orange peel texture which is formed by throwing salt into the kiln during the higher temperature part of the firing process. Sodium from the salts reacts with silica in the clay body to form a glossy coating of sodium silicate. The glaze may be colourless or coloured with various oxides – iron oxide gives brown, cobalt oxide gives blues and manganese oxide gives purples.

Here is a photo of a German Bartmann jug.



Michael Casson OBE

Born in London in 1925, he lived till 2003. He was an English studio potter referred to as respected and charismatic.

He studied art and wood work at Shoreditch College, and ceramics at Hornsey College of Art and was one of the founding potters of the Crafts Potters Association, a co operative that acquired a shop and gallery in central London in 1958. In 1976 Casson devised and presented a TV show called 'the Craft of the Potter' for the BBC, a series that involved practical demonstrations and discussions about the craft of the potter.



Here is a photo of a jug thrown by Michael Casson.

Cream ware

Cream ware is a cream coloured refined earthenware with a lead glaze over a pale body, known in France as Faience fine, in Germany as Engels porcelain and in Italy as Terraglia Inglese. It was created in 1750 by the potters of Staffordshire, who refined the materials of salt glazed earthenware towards a finer, thinner, whiter body with a brilliant glossy lead glaze.

Variations of cream ware were known as 'Tortoise shell ware' or Wheildon ware, developed by a master potter called Thomas Wheildon.

The most well known producer of cream ware was Josiah Wedgwood, who perfected the ware, beginning during his partnership with Thomas Weildon. Wedgewood supplied his Cream ware to Queen Charlotte, George the thirds wife and Catherine the Great and used the trade name Queens ware.

