

Hand building Rebecca 28/05/2020

Hello and I hope you are keeping well and looking after your selves. This hand out is about a Potter called Ian Godfrey who throws and models his work.

Ian Godfrey



He was born in Ely in 1942. He studied painting then ceramics at Camberwell Art School from 1957, where his teachers included Hans Coper, Lucie Rie and Ian Auld. He established his own workshop in 1962 and enjoyed great success in the 1970's with his work.

Although never a conventional studio potter, he learnt to throw pots, he preferred to work on shapes with carving and modelling rather than building by hand. Inspiration came from the pre dynastic clay and bronze forms of the Mediterranean and from China, cultures where ritualistic and votive objects were accepted and understood.

Godfrey had a studio on City Road, Islington. He spent many hours working on individual pieces, using a pen knife to carve the clay when leather hard, to achieve the fine detail he wanted,



He had a major exhibition at the British Crafts Centre London in the seventies, showing work notable for the amount of finely carved detail. With a grant from the Crafts Advisory Committee(now the Crafts Council), he set out to make small bronze pieces, Godfrey's work is well presented in the Victoria and Albert Museum.



A change of direction came in the mid seventies when Godfrey moved to Copenhagen, setting up a workshop for the potter Hans Jorgen Grum, which mostly made domestic pottery.

In 1980 he returned to London, opening a studio in Highgate. His last major exhibition was at Galerie Besson in London in 1989. At this exhibition the potter, Lucie Rie made a statement in the catalogue in which Rie describes Godfrey's pots as 'unique and beautiful'. Ian Godfrey continued to work until AIDS- related illness brought impossible complications. He died in 1992.

Hans Jorgen Grum

I tried to find out about Hans but I could only find a face book page with no pottery.

Galerie Besson

Was a ceramics gallery in an arcade off Old Bond Street, W1, it closed in 2011. It now has an online page with a list of all the exhibitions and potters, and their work including Lucie Rie, Hans Coper, Betty Woodman, John Maltby, Annie Turner and more. The collection of ceramics has gone to the Derek Williams Trust who are loaning it to the National Museum of Wales