

Welcome to this weeks hand out. We are looking at an established maker, Philip Elgin, this is to add to your knowledge of potters. I hope this will inspire you in your making when we get back to Core Arts. Look after your selves and keep safe.

Philip Elgin



Philip Elgin in his work shop.

Was born in Gibraltar in 1959, he studied at Staffordshire Polytechnic(1979 - 1982) and the Royal College of Art (1983 - 1986). He exhibits internationally and was awarded the Sherwood Prize for Applied Arts in 1996. He is represented by the Marsdon Woo Gallery in London and the Monique Deul Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland.



Reclining figure

Elgin's work is held in numerous public collections including the Stedelijk Museum, the Netherlands, the Mint Museum, North Carolina, USA, British Council, London, the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.



Seated mother and child 2014 54 x 29 x 19 cm.

Elgin produces work in a range of scales in earthenware and stoneware. Elgin's work reflect and comment on contemporary culture. Eclectic in their references, he has likened his characteristic intermingling of cultural icons, ephemeral images, symbols of consumer culture and hand written scripts to channel hopping. References are made to a heterogeneous array of sources including Northern Gothic, religious wood carvings, Chinese export porcelain, English folk ceramics and the language and symbols used on contemporary packaging. His interest in such artefacts is not solely because of their intended aesthetic but extends to the characteristic shapes and marks that are found on the underside of objects.

His most recent work explores the juxtaposition of imagery related to football, religion and sex. He works on a range of sizes making small functional vessels at one end and large -scale figurative sculptural works at the other end.



Bucket Hands off Beratov Philip Elgin

'I see my self as continuing a strong ceramic tradition of borrowing ideas, for both form and surface, from examples found in other media. I enjoy being flippant and subversive, making fusions of seemingly disparate historical and contemporary subjects in an attempt to achieve a balance between the high and low brow, the reverent and the irreverent, the sophisticated and the crude'.



Smile Bucket Philip Elgin

Elgin says ' these 'buckets were initially made and titled as such, as a reaction to and a skit on the generic, naff nineties 'untitled vessel' label to describe non functional sculptural pots at this time. The term 'bucket' somehow sounds like a poor relation to the loftier vessel. In fact the title 'bucket' is a truer description as the formal references for these works derive from metal buckets and watering cans'.

He is influenced by Abstract Expressionist painters of the 1950's. Frequent use of graffiti elements carry playful references to street culture and his sculptures often incorporate pieces moulded from everyday objects such as coke bottles or throw away plastic.

Although most noted for his figures, he is also known for his large bucket vessels and more recently he has created installations of jugs.



Jug Philip Elgin

Marsden Woo Gallery
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