

## Elizabeth Fritsch CBE

Curriculum Vitae



Born 1940, Wales

1958-1964	Birmingham School of Music & Royal Academy of Music, London
1968-1971	Royal College of Art, London, MA Ceramics

Elizabeth Fritsch CBE graduated from the Royal College of Art, London in 1971 and quickly established herself as a pioneering artist with a highly original style. Emerging as a progressive ceramicist, Fritsch realised critical acclaim for her 'New Ceramics', moving away from the more utilitarian style of making that had preceded her.

Fritsch initiated a significant shift in British ceramic art and helped redefine a new artistic narrative in the field through innovative sculptural form, colour juxtaposition, and experimentation. She is renowned for her compressed vessels with angular silhouettes and dramatic painted surfaces. Her dynamic arrangements of cubes, stripes, steps and diamonds visually echoing the rhythm and virtuosity of a jazz musician. The vessels are often displayed as groups, in dialogue, back to front, side by side, and best appreciated in the round.

Her work is widely collected and can be found in many international public collections of note, including the National Museum Cardiff, Wales; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA; The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan.

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 *Elizabeth Fritsch: Otherworldly Vessels*, The Hepworth Wakefield, West Yorkshire, in association with Adrian Sassoon
- 2010 *Dynamic Structures: Painted Vessels*, National Museum Cardiff, Wales, in association with Adrian Sassoon
- 2008 *Elizabeth Fritsch*, The Fine Art Society, London
- 2007 Anthony Hepworth Fine Art, Bath
- 2000 *Elizabeth Fritsch: Memories of Architecture, Part II*, Galerie Besson, London  
*Metaphysical Vessels*, Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge, USA
- 1998 *Sea Pieces*, Contemporary Applied Arts, London
- 1996 *Vessels from Another World, Metaphysical Pots*, Museum Bellerive, Zurich, Switzerland and tour to Munich, Halle and Karlsruhe, Germany
- 1994 *Order and Chaos*, Bellas Artes, Santa Fe, USA  
Galerie Osiris, Brussels, Belgium
- 1993 *Elizabeth Fritsch, Vessels from Another World, Metaphysical Pots*, Northern Centre for Contemporary Art, Sunderland and tour to Aberdeen; Birmingham; Cardiff; London; Norwich
- 1992 Pilscheur Fine Art, London (retrospective)
- 1990 Hetjens Museum, Düsseldorf, Germany (retrospective)  
*Cross Rhythms and Counterpoint*, Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh
- 1989 Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham  
Galerie Besson, London
- 1986 Solo Room in British Art and Design exhibition, Künstlerhaus, Vienna, Austria
- 1978 *Elizabeth Fritsch: Pots About Music*, Leeds Art Galleries, Temple Newsham and tour to Glasgow; Bristol; Gateshead; Bolton; Victoria and Albert Museum, London

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF New York, New York, USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2024 *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF New York, New York, USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2023 *Adrian Sassoon*, Frieze Masters, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
- 2022 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
- 2021 *Adrian Sassoon at Parham, a House of History*, Parham House, West Sussex
- 2017 *Adrian Sassoon*, Salon of Art & Design, New York, USA
- 2016 *Adrian Sassoon*, Salon of Art & Design, New York, USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2015 *Adrian Sassoon*, Salon of Art & Design, New York, USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands

**Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)**

- 2014      *Adrian Sassoon*, Salon of Art & Design, New York, USA  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2013      *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
            *Frank's International House of Ceramics, Part Two*, Frank Lloyd Gallery, Santa Monica, California, USA
- 2012      *Adrian Sassoon*, Art Miami, Miami, USA  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, Art Antiques London, Kensington Gardens, London  
            *Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2011      *Between Dimensions: The Representation of the Object*, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design New York, New York, USA  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
            *Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
- 2010      *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, Former Chelsea Barracks, London  
            *Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, The Saatchi Gallery, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, London Art Fair, Business Design Centre, London
- 2009      *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London  
            *Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, The Saatchi Gallery, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, London Art Fair, Business Design Centre, London
- 2008      *Adrian Sassoon*, Design Art London, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
            *Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, V&A Museum, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, London Art Fair, Business Design Centre, London
- 2007      *Adrian Sassoon*, The International Art + Design Fair, New York, USA  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London  
            *Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, V&A Museum, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, London Art Fair, Business Design Centre, London
- 2006      *Adrian Sassoon*, The International Art + Design Fair, New York, USA  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London  
            *Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, V&A Museum, London  
            *Adrian Sassoon*, London Art Fair, Business Design Centre, London

## Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 2005 *Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, V&A Museum, London
- 2004 *Adrian Sassoon*, The International Art + Design Fair, New York, USA  
*Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, V&A Museum, London
- 2003 *Saved, 100 Years of The Art Fund*, Hayward Gallery, London  
*British Ceramics: Five Artists*, Frank Lloyd Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London  
*Ceramic Art from an International perspective*, Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu, Japan  
*Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, SOFA, Chicago, USA
- 2001 *Adrian Sassoon*, ART2001, Business Design Centre, London  
*Jerwood Applied Arts Prize 2001: Ceramics*, Crafts Council Gallery, London
- 2000 *New Art Objects*, Crafts Council Gallery, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, The International 20th Century Arts Fair, New York, USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London  
*Keramic Biennale*, Lucerne, Switzerland  
*British Ceramics 2000 DK*, The Museum of International Ceramic Art, Grimmerhus, Denmark
- 1999 *British Ceramics*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
*A Dialogue in Clay*, Artizana Gallery, Cheshire  
*International Ceramics*, Steningen, Sweden  
*Memory of Architecture*, Galerie Marianne Heller, Heidelberg, Germany  
*Twenty-Five Years of the Crafts Council Shop at the Victoria and Albert Museum*, London
- 1998 *Fifty Years of Craft*, Contemporary Applied Arts, London
- 1996 *The Art Of Function*, Lipworth International, Florida, USA  
*Das Andere Gefass*, Saalandisches Künstlerhaus, Saarbrücken  
*The Jerwood Prize for Applied Arts 1996: Ceramics*, Crafts Council Gallery, London
- 1993 *The Raw and the Cooked: new work in clay in Britain*, Barbican Art Gallery, London;  
Museum of Modern Art, Oxford; Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea; The Shigaraki  
Ceramic Cultural Park, Shigaraki, Japan
- 1992 *Colours of the Earth*, British Council, Far East touring exhibition  
*Keramiske Veje*, Den Frie Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*La Fabbrica Estetica*, Alessi, Italy  
*Vier Elemente Drei Lander*, Museum für Kunsthandwerk, Frankfurt, Germany
- 1991 *British Ceramics*, Bellas Artes, New York, USA  
*The Abstract Vessel*, Oriel Gallery, Cardiff, Wales  
*Europaisches Kunst Handwerk*, Stuttgart, Germany
- 1989 British Council Touring Exhibition, Tokyo & Kyoto, Japan
- 1988 *London-Amsterdam: New Art Objects*, Crafts Council Gallery, London and tour
- 1987 *The Stamp of Fame*, Fischer Fine Art, London - chosen for Bernard Leach Centenary  
Post Office Stamp issue with Hans Coper and Lucie Rie
- 1986 *Nine Potters*, Fischer Fine Art, London
- 1985 *Fast Forward*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London and tour

## Awards

2001	Shortlisted, <i>Jerwood Applied Arts Prize 2001: Ceramics</i>
1996	Shortlisted, <i>The Jerwood Prize for Applied Arts 1996: Ceramics</i>
1995	Awarded Commander of the British Empire Senior Fellowship, Royal College of Art, London
1993	Gold Medallist, <i>Visuelle Spiele</i> , Internationale Handwerksmesse, Munich, Germany
1987	Studio Pottery Stamps to commemorate the Centenary of the birth of Bernard Leach and the renaissance of British studio pottery, issued by the Royal Mail
1980	John Ruskin Bursary
1976	Gold Medal, International Ceramics Competition, Sopot, Poland
1972	Prize Winner, Royal Copenhagen Jubilee
1970	Silver Medal, Royal College of Art: Herbert Read Memorial Prize

## Public Collections

Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museum, Aberdeen  
Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth, Wales  
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford  
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Birmingham  
Bolton Museum and Art Gallery, Bolton  
Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Bristol  
British Council Collection  
The British Museum, London  
Centre of Ceramic Art, York Art Gallery, York  
Crafts Council, London  
Devonshire Collections, Chatsworth House, Derbyshire  
Hove Museum & Art Gallery, Hove  
Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow  
Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne  
Lotherton Hall, Leeds, Yorkshire  
Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester  
Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough  
National Museum Cardiff, Wales  
National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh  
National Museums Northern Ireland, Holywood, Northern Ireland  
Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Norwich  
Nottingham Castle Museum, Nottingham  
Paisley Museum and Art Galleries, Paisley  
Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery, Portsmouth  
Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, Norfolk  
The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge  
The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, West Yorkshire  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London  
Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, Liverpool

## Public Collections (continued)

Design museum Ghent, Ghent, Belgium  
 CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art, Denmark  
 Designmuseum Danmark, Copenhagen, Denmark  
 Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France  
 Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany  
 Museum für Modernes Glas, Kunstsammlungen der Veste Coburg, Coburg, Germany  
 Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden  
 Museum für Gestaltung, Zurich, Switzerland  
 Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
 Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado, USA  
 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts, USA  
 Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania, USA  
 The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA  
 The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA  
 Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia  
 The National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia  
 The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia  
 Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
 Mashiko Museum of Ceramic Art, Tochigi, Japan  
 Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu, Japan  
 The Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art, Shigaraki, Japan

## Bibliography: Books & Catalogues

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2023 | Thorpe, A., <i>Contemporary British Studio Pottery, forms of expression</i> , The Crowood Press Limited, Wiltshire, pp. 58, 59  |
| 2013 | Britton, A., <i>Seeing Things: Collected Writing on Art, Craft and Design</i> , Occasional Papers, Sheffield, p. 23   |
| 2010 | <i>Dynamic Structures: Painted Vessels</i> , National Museum Cardiff, Wales in association with Adrian Sassoon  |
| 2009 | Miller, J., <i>20th Century Design: The Definitive Illustrated Sourcebook</i> , Mitchell Beazley, London, p. 256  |
| 2008 | Lambirth, A., <i>Elizabeth Fritsch at the Fine Art Society</i> , Fine Art Society   |
| 2003 | de Waal, E., <i>20<sup>th</sup> Century Ceramics</i> , Thames and Hudson, London  |
| 2002 | Rice, P., <i>British Studio Ceramics</i> , The Crowood Press Limited, Wiltshire   |
| 2000 | Hardy, M., <i>Handbuilding</i> , A&C Black, London, p. 50   |
| 1999 | de Waal, E., <i>Design Source Book Ceramics</i> , New Holland, London, p. 88<br><i>Twenty-five Years</i> , Crafts Council Shop at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, p.13 & wrap around            |
| 1997 | Blandino, B., <i>Coiled Pottery</i> , A&C Black, London, p. 107   |
| 1993 | Lucie-Smith, E., <i>Elizabeth Fritsch: Vessels from Another World</i> , Bellew Publishing   |
| 1990 | Watson, O., <i>British Studio Pottery: Victoria and Albert Museum Collection</i> , Phaidon / Christies<br>Waller, J., <i>The Complete Potter: Hand Built Ceramics</i> , Batsford Limited, London, p. 67 |
| 1989 | Rice, P. & Gowing, C., <i>British Studio Ceramics in the 20th Century</i> , Barrie & Jenkins, London, p. 162  |

**Bibliography: Books & Catalogues (continued)**

- 1986 Dormer, P., *the new ceramics, trends + traditions*, Thames & Hudson Ltd., London, pp. 160, 161
- 1985 Dormer, P., *Elizabeth Fritsch in Studio*, Bellew Publishing Co Ltd.
- 1984 Dormer, P., *The New Ceramics*, Thames and Hudson, London
- 1978 Lucie-Smith, E., *Elizabeth Fritsch: Pots about Music*, Leeds City Art Galleries
- 1975 Lucie-Smith, E., *World of the Makers: Today's Master Craftsmen & Craftswomen*, Paddington Press

**Bibliography: Selected Articles & Essays**

- 2005 Chaney, J., *On Elizabeth Fritsch*, The London Magazine, April/May
- 1999 Dormer, P. *Elizabeth Fritsch*, Kerameiki Techni, Greece
- 1995 *Metaphysical Pots: Elizabeth Fritsch*, Ceramic Magazine
- Beel, V., *Vazen Als Metaforen*, De Standard Magazine, Brussels
- 1994 Hamyln, J., *Metaphysical Vessels*, Ceramic Review
- Casciani, S., *Elizabeth Fritsch: Due Dimesione e Mezza*, Abitare Magazine, Milan
- 1993 *Notes on Equilibrium*, The Raw and the Cooked, MOMA, Oxford
- Dormer, P., *Composing in Clay*, The Antique Collector, June
- Enright, S., *Elizabeth Fritsch: Vessels from Another World*, Studio Pottery
- 1989 Chester, C., *Pot Luck*, Sotheby's Preview, Sept/ Oct
- Hughes, G., *Elizabeth Fritsch Exhibition Review*, Arts Review, Oct
- Notes on Time*, Crafts Magazine, March/April
- 1987 Courtney, C., *Post-Modern*, Crafts Magazine, Sept/Oct
- 1986 Frankel, C., *Clay in Their Hands*, Illustrated London News
- 1974 Houston, J., *Traps to Fill Emptiness*, Crafts Magazine, Sept/Oct