

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

Working in London

Museums and collectors across the world have been admirers of Elizabeth Fritsch's work for decades. Her hand-built fore-shortened forms combined with rhythmic patterns are signatures that are widely recognised and inspired by her training as a classical musician before turning to ceramics. Works are often grouped together and juxtaposed so that the rear or side of a vase balances or provides a counterpoint to a neighbour. Having graduated from the Royal College of Art, London in 1971, Elizabeth is regarded as one of the UK's leading ceramic artists.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 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 *Memory of Architecture, Part II*, Galerie Besson, London
Metaphysical Vessels, Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge, USA
- 1998 *Sea Pieces*, Contemporary Applied Arts, London
- 1995 *Metaphysical Pots*, Museum Bellerive, Zurich, Switzerland & tour to Munich, Halle & Karlsruhe, Germany
- 1994 *Order and Chaos*, Bellas Artes, Santa Fe, USA
Osiris Gallery, Brussels
- 1993 *Vessels from Another World*, (retrospective) Northern Centre for Contemporary Art, Sunderland & 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 & tour Glasgow, Bristol, Gateshead, Bolton, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *Adrian Sassoon, Frieze Masters*, 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
- 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

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 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
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
- 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
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: Ceramics, Crafts Council Gallery, London
- 2000
Adrian Sassoon, The International 20th Century Arts Fair, New York, USA
Adrian Sassoon, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 2000 Ceramic 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 Kunstlerhaus, Saarbrucken
Jerwood Applied Arts Prize: Ceramics, Crafts Council Gallery, London
- 1993 *The Raw and the Cooked*, Barbican Art Gallery, London, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford & 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
- 1991 *British Ceramics*, Bellas Artes, New York, USA
The Abstract Vessel, Oriol 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 & tour

Awards

- 2001 Shortlisted, Jerwood Prize for Applied Arts 2001: Ceramics
- 1996 Shortlisted, Jerwood Prize for Applied Arts 1996: Ceramics
- 1995 Awarded Commander of the British Empire
Senior Fellowship, Royal College of Art, London
- 1993 Gold Medallist, *Visuelle Spiele*, Internationale Handwerksmesse, Munich, Germany
- 1987 Bernard Leach Centenary Post Office Stamp Issue
- 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
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
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 Cobürg, Cobürg, 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

Public Collections (continued)

Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu, Japan

The Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art, Shigaraki, Japan

The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan

Bibliography: Books & Catalogues

- 2010 *Dynamic Structures: Painted Vessels*, National Museum Cardiff, Wales in association with Adrian Sassoon
- 2008 Lambirth, A., *Elizabeth Fritsch at the Fine Art Society*, Fine Art Society
- 2003 de Waal, E., *20th Century Ceramics*, Thames and Hudson
- 2002 Rice, P., *British Studio Ceramics*, Crowood Press
- 2000 Hardy, M., *Hand-Building*, A & C Black
- 1999 de Waal, E., *Design Source Book Ceramics*, New Holland
- 1993 Lucie-Smith, E., *Elizabeth Fritsch: Vessels from Another World*, Bellew Publishing
- 1990 Watson, O., *British Studio Pottery: Victoria and Albert Museum Collection*, Phaidon / Christies
- 1986 Dormer, P., *Elizabeth Fritsch in Studio*, Bellew Publishing
- 1984 Dormer, P., *The New Ceramics*, Thames and Hudson
- 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, Apr/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