

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

- 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
Osiris Gallery, 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 Glasgow, Bristol, Gateshead, Bolton, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 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
- 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

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 2013 *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
- 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

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 2003 *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 Kunstlerhaus, Saarbrucken
The Jerwood Prize for Applied Arts 1996: 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, Germany
- 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 and tour

Awards

- 2001 Shortlisted, *Jerwood Applied Arts Prize 2001: Ceramics*
- 1996 Shortlisted, *The 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

Awards (continued)

- 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
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

Public Collections (continued)

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