

Nicholas Lees

Curriculum Vitae



Born 1967

1986-1989	University of Kent, Canterbury, BA(Hons) English & History
1989-1992	Bristol Polytechnic, Bristol, BA(Hons) Ceramics
1996-1997	University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, MA Ceramics
2010-2012	Royal College of Art, London, MPhil by project

Working in Hampshire

This series of work evolved out of research for an MPhil by project at the Royal College of Art. In considering transitions between two and three dimensions in the production of artworks, I looked at shadows and silhouettes and became interested in the penumbra - half shadow, half light. I am making a series of optical vessels embodying a penumbra of material, an uncertain presence that captures a dialogue between solidity and ephemerality. The objects have a dynamic relationship with space, light and the body of the viewer. The perception of their presence constantly shifts according to variations in these factors.

These works draw upon some of the histories of ceramics such as the use of throwing and lathe turning in the making of vessels by Wedgwood and the production of porcelain insulators. They are modernist in their formality and geometry. The pieces are made from porcelain, first thrown on the wheel as massively thick walled vessels and then turned on a lathe whilst leather hard. They are intensively hand crafted, involving risk and patience, but wear this subtly in their visual presence, seeming possibly to come as much from the machine as the hand.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2002 Peter's Barn Gallery, Midhurst, Sussex
1999 The Red Gallery, Portsmouth, Hampshire

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2017 *Taste Contemporary Craft*, Tresor, Basel, Switzerland
Artists in Residence #2, Officine Saffi, Milan, Italy
Senses, Walford Mill Gallery, Dorset
Whiter Shade of Pale, Hexagon Classic Design, London
Form, Snug Gallery, Yorkshire
Rabley Contemporary, London Art Fair, London
Taste Contemporary Craft, artgenève, Geneva, Switzerland
VASE: Function Reviewed, Farmleigh Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
Christie's, with Royal College of Art Ceramics and Glass Department, London
- 2016 *VASE: Function Reviewed*, National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny, Ireland
Naspa Talent Award, Keramikmuseum Westerwald, Germany
Ornament '16, Old Granada Studios, Manchester
XXIV International Biennale of Vallauris, France
A La Recherche du Sublime, Galerie du Don, France
Taste Contemporary Craft, artmonte-carlo, Monte Carlo
Galerie du Don, St. Art Fair, Strasbourg, France
- 2015 *Puls Contemporary Ceramics*, Brussels, Belgium
European Ceramics, European Parliament, Strasbourg, France
Premio Faenza, Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche, Faenza, Italy
Many a Slip, Marsen Woo Gallery, London
'Form & Frei', Schloss Gottorf, Schleswig Holstein, Germany
St-Art, Strasbourg, with Galerie du Don, France
- 2014 *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
European Ceramics, Keramikmuseum Westerwald, Höhr-Grenzhausen, Germany
Light Reflections, Mint, London
Mixed Exhibition, Marsden Woo Gallery, London
Encounter Fine Art, Broadway House, London
- 2013 Selfridges Concept Store, London
British Ceramics Biennial Award Exhibition, Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
The Open West, Newark Park and Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Mixed Exhibition, Marsden Woo Gallery, London
- 2012 *Drawing Biennial*, One Church Street Gallery, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire
Show 2012, Royal College of Art, London
James Tower and Contemporary Ceramic Art, Gimpel Fils, London
- 2010 National Sculpture Award, Bluecoat Display Centre, Liverpool
- 2009 *5th World Ceramics Biennale*, Icheon, South Korea
European Ceramics – 12th Westerwald Prize, Keramikmuseum Westerwald, Höhr-Grenzhausen, Germany
- 2008 *10 Years On. Work from Fireworks Studio*, Llantarnam Grange, Cwmbrân, Wales and tour
- 2007 *4th World Ceramics Biennale*, Icheon, South Korea

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 2004 1st European Ceramics Competition Exhibition, Amaroussion, Greece
Westerwald Ceramic Art Competition, Westerwald Keramikmuseum, Höhr-Grenzhause, Germany
- 2003 53rd International Ceramic Art Competition, Faenza, Italy
- 2002 *Ceramica Festival*, Bishop Philpotts Gallery, Truro, Cornwall
Ceramic Contemporaries 4, Royal College of Art, London and tour
- 2001 *Positive and Negative*, Pearoom Crafts Centre, Lincolnshire
Sculpture for St. Swithun's Day, Red House Museum, Christchurch, Dorset
- 2000 Trialog Gallery, Hohn-Grenzhausen, Germany
- 1999 The Candover Gallery, Alresford, Hampshire
Peter's Barn Gallery, Midhurst, Sussex
Art in Clay, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire
Not just Pots - New Directions in Contemporary Ceramics, Hampshire County Council Museums Service and tour
- 1998 *Ceramics From Wales*, Ceramics Gallery, Sydney, Australia
Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, Fletcher Trust Collection, Auckland, New Zealand
- 1997 *NewArt*, Wrexham Art Centre, Wrexham, Wales

Awards

- 2015 Cersaie Prize, 59th Faenza International Ceramics Biennale, Faenza, Italy
- 2012 Desmond Preston Award for excellence in drawing, RCA, London
- 2010 National Sculpture Award, Bluecoat Display Centre, Liverpool
- 2004 Award of Merit, 1st European Ceramics Competition, Amaroussion, Greece
- 2003 Third prize, 53rd International Ceramic Art Competition, Faenza, Italy

Public Collections

York City Art Gallery, York
Keramikmuseum Westerwald, Höhr-Grenzhausen, Germany
Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche, Faenza, Italy
Auckland Museum, Auckland, New Zealand

Bibliography: Selected Articles & Essays

- 2016 *La Ceramica in Italia e nel Mondo*, no. 30
- 2015 *Neue Keramik*, June
- 2013 *Ceramic Review*, no. 264