

Contemporary Ceramics Centre

63 Great Russell Street London WC1B 3BF
Opposite the British Museum
Open: Mon to Sat, 10.30 am to 6.00 pm

Tel: 0207 242 9644
Email: contemporary.ceramics@virgin.net
Web: www.cpaceramics.com



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Mary White

A Retrospective

9th June – 2nd July 2011

The Contemporary Ceramics Centre is pleased to present a retrospective of the internationally celebrated potter and calligrapher Mary White. This exhibition brings together a collection of historical pieces and is a rare opportunity to view, in one place, important work by a Grande Dame of British Studio Ceramics.

From early on in her career Mary combined her enthusiasm for both ceramics and calligraphy. An early opportunity to work with porcelain led Mary to developing her distinctive wide-flanged bowls, where she extended the thin rims to breaking point. The organic quality found in the broken edges of these pieces can be found in many of her forms and takes ideas from the coastal landscape; layers of rock on the seashore, shells and waves rippling over the sand, and the colours of the sea and the sky. Pieces often combine throwing and handbuilding, using the clay as thin as possible, almost like torn paper and assembling the clay in layers.

The physicality of Mary's forms offers a three dimensional canvas to frame and support her delicate and exquisite calligraphy. Her graphic approach, with the considered use of colour and balancing of areas of light and shade, leads to dynamics and tensions between the text and form, giving weight to her words.

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Biographical Notes

(b.1926) Studied at Newport School of Art, Hammersmith School of Art, Goldsmiths College (1949-1950). First workshop set up in 1973. Moved to Germany in 1980 where she concentrated on ceramics. In 1990 Mary became involved in calligraphy again and now works combining the two art forms.

Honorary Fellow of the Craft Potters Association

Honoured Fellow of Calligraphy and Lettering Arts Society

2003 wrote *Lettering on Ceramics* – Published by A&C Black

Her work is collected internationally and appears in museum collections, including the [Victoria and Albert Museum](http://www.vam.ac.uk), London and the [Musée des Arts Décoratifs](http://www.musee-louvre.fr), Paris.

Notes to Editors:

- i) For further information or images, please contact Marta Donaghey on
- ii) 0207 242 9644 or email contemporary.ceramics@virgin.net
- iii) Additional information can be found on our page on Facebook

