

# 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

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## Jane Hamlyn 'Special Reserve'

Abstract vessels & saltglazed teapots

12 May – 4 June 2011

In their exciting new Gallery opposite the British Museum the Centre for Contemporary Ceramics is hosting a special exhibition of saltglazed pieces by the veteran ceramicist Jane Hamlyn.

Many people will be familiar with the Martin Brothers, 19<sup>th</sup> century salt-glaze potters whose grotesque bird forms appear regularly on The Antiques Roadshow, but the technique, which depends on throwing common salt into a hot kiln, was superseded by industrial production methods until revived by a few studio potters in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Jane Hamlyn was a pioneer of this revival and has been one of its foremost exponents ever since, setting up her studio in 1975 and making a living, by hand. The increasing popularity of her work was founded on functional domestic pottery saltglazed in blues & lustrous green, the shapes reminiscent of precious silverware with innovative textures, quirky handles and knobs. Jane Hamlyn's pieces have been acquired by museums and private collections worldwide.

Her artistic adventure continues: recently she has changed direction. Less strictly functional these leaning cylinders are more abstract sculptural forms, she calls them 'Empty Vessels' and their related groupings and juxtapositions of interior and exterior space exploit a new palette of colours. At first these exciting works seem radically different, no longer grounded in the safety of function, more ambitious they demand more of the intellect and imagination. Challenging but not confrontational, they retain the human scale and the warmth of intention for which this potter's work has long been appreciated.

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### Notes to Editors:

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

Images: Jane Hamlyn Orange Close Up, saltglazed teapot

