



Rowena Gilbert

The south coast and foreign travel inspire this award-winning Brighton-based ceramicist

CERAMIC artist Rowena Gilbert's new range Coast Series #2 is imbued with the shorelines of south east Asia. "My ceramic work is a celebration of the natural world informed by my travels and my coastal hometown of Brighton," she says. "Following the trip (to Thailand)

experiments with new colour palettes led to an unintentional spread of hundreds of turquoise blue swatches, spread out in my studio like an ocean of tiny tiles." Rowena, daughter of fine artist Terence Gilbert, was creating art with felt tip pens from a young age. She developed a love of

ceramics while studying at Christ's Hospital in Horsham. "My art teacher was a huge collector of contemporary fine art ceramics," she says. "To be taught by someone so passionate about ceramics was a massive influence on me. I guess my artistic talents come from living and breathing art since I was a child." In her shared Brighton studio – set up with a Prince's Trust loan – Rowena, 36, creates unique bowls, vases and lamp stands which are sold at leading galleries throughout the country. Her work fuses simplicity of line with muted colours and a range of surface textures. "All the colours in my ceramics are my own creations," she says. "I cast each piece with a colour clay body, then brush layers of coloured clay slips on the inside

and outside." This part of the process can take several weeks as the clay must dry slowly to prevent cracking. She uses metal tools to cut through the layers in a method following the principles of sgraffito ceramics before glazing and firing the final pieces. Despite 14 years working with clay professionally, she hasn't lost her love of the medium: "It is magical and elemental, malleable and versatile, giving you freedom to express yourself in an endless variety of ways." • Coast Series #2 launches at Cameron Contemporary Art in Church Road, Hove, on Saturday 12 November. For more information visit www.rowenagilbert.com

NEED TO KNOW
Sussex Creation is a series by photographer Philip Trill, exploring people in their work environment, capturing the characters and what they do in a single image. www.philiptrill.co.uk

ROWENA GILBERT CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS

Rowena Justine Gilbert

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 Facebook: www.facebook.com/rowenagilbert.ceramics

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

My ceramic work is above all else, a celebration of the natural world informed by my daily observations, travels and life in my coastal hometown.

I enjoy the duality of mixing precision with playfulness; many layers of clay slips are built upon in a highly controlled manner, whereas the bold markings etched into the surface and the brushed glazes are added with impulsivity and freedom.

My focus is on exploring the language of abstraction to evoke the elemental power and ever-shifting dynamism of nature, communicating not through narrative and figurative forms, but through mood and momentum.

AWARDS/EDUCATION

- 2016 **The Sussex Guild of Professional Designer Makers**
Selected Guild Member
- 2013 **Craft&Design Selected Award Finalist - Ceramics**
Craft&Design Magazine
- 2011 **Craft&Design Selected Award Finalist - Ceramics**
Craft&Design Magazine
- 2002 **The Best Up and Coming Local Artist Award, Brighton & Hove**
Ceremony held at The Dome Concert Hall & Corn Exchange
- 2002 **BA Honours Degree in Three Dimensional Crafts 2.1**
University of Brighton (Major in Ceramics)
- 1999 **BTEC Diploma Foundation Studies in Art and Design**
Brighton College of Technology
Final Major Project Distinction
Core Studies Distinction
Specialist Studies Merit
- 1998 **A-Levels - Christ's Hospital School, Horsham**
Art and Design – Fine Art A
Art and Design – Fashion and Textiles A
Design and Technology A
Mathematics B

SELF - EMPLOMENT

- 09/10/2003 – (ongoing) **Self Employed Ceramic Artist Designer Maker & Web Designer**
Studio 3, Level 5 (North), New England House/Street, Brighton, BN1 4GH

EXHIBITIONS

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Cameron Contemporary Art | Hove, East Sussex |
| New Ashgate Gallery | Farnham, Surrey |
| Tayberry Gallery | Perth, Scotland |
| Cambridge Contemporary Art | Cambridge |
| The Whitehouse Gallery | Kirkcudbright, Scotland |
| The Crafts Centre & Design Gallery | The Headrow, Leeds |
| Henley Royal Regatta - Regatta Gallery | Steward's Enclosure, Henley on Thames |
| The Biscuit Factory | Newcastle Upon Tyne |
| Northern Lights Gallery | Keswick, Cumbria |
| Riverside Art & Glass | Wroxham, Norfolk |
| Gallery in the Lanes | Norwich, Norfolk |
| Heart Gallery | Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire |
| Arteria Gallery 23 | Lancaster, Lancashire |
| Palm Tree Gallery | London |

Oxford Ceramics Fair (CPA)
Edinburgh Art Fair
Bristol Affordable Art Fair
Sussex Guild - De La Warr Pavilion

Oxford, Oxfordshire
Edinburgh, Scotland
Bristol
Bexhill, Sussex

P R E S S

Ceramic Review Magazine
The Times Newspaper
Crafts Council Maker of the Week
Sussex Life Magazine
InsideSussex Magazine
The Biscuit Factory Gallery Magazine
The World Of Interiors Magazine
ETC Magazine, Sussex Edition

Vogue Magazine
Elle Decoration Magazine
Metro Newspaper
Craft&Design Magazine
Period Living Magazine
Aesthica Magazine
Guardian Newspaper
Good Housekeeping Magazine

E V E N T S O R G A N I S E R

2002 - 2018

New England House Open Studios Show www.nehopenstudios.org.uk

This is a three day annual event for 50+ artists/designers/makers from Brighton and Hove. I have been the sole organiser, designer and marketer of the event for nine years, and joint organiser for the seven years prior to then.

O T H E R E M P L O Y M E N T

- 2019 **Freelance Assistant for Dupenny Illustration**
New England House, New England Street, Brighton, BN1 4GH
- 2019 **Freelance Web Design for Imogen Heath Interiors**
New England House, New England Street, Brighton, BN1 4GH
- 2005 – 2016 **Freelance Assistant of Design, Textiles & Ceramic Work for Mary Fellows**
Studio 3, Star Brewery, Castle Ditch Lane, Lewes, BN7 1YJ
- 2006 – 2013 **Freelance Web Design & SEO Work for Mary Fellows**
Design, Build and Update: www.maryfellows.co.uk, www.pintuck.co.uk and
www.maryfellowsprints.co.uk
- 2007 - 2008 **Freelance Web Design & SEO Work for Jaynie Ralph**
Design, Build and Update: www.theholisticnetwork.co.uk
- 2008 – 2019 **Freelance Web Design & SEO Work for Rachel Eardley**
Design, Build and Update: www.racheleardley.com
- 2010 – 2014 **Freelance Web Design & SEO Work for Laura Windebank**
Design, Build and Update: www.laurawindebank.co.uk