

Name: Nikki Roberson

Venue: Love Locks Hair & Makeup Lounge

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Who are you and what do you do?

Nikki Roberson, Ceramicist.

How has your practice changed over Time?

I gained a degree in Ceramic Design in 1993 but had a break of almost 20 years before returning to working in ceramics in 2011, and at that point it was only a hobby. In

2017 I finally decided to give up my 'office job' to dedicate all my time to ceramics, focusing on hand-built stoneware. To start with my skills were definitely very rusty and the quality of my work at that time wasn't built to a very high standard and lacking focus on any particular themes. So I would say my practice has changed in respect of improving the craftsmanship of my work and I now have a very clear idea of what I want to achieve and the direction I want to develop my work.

What themes do I pursue?

My influences are varied and inspired by nature, whilst exploring the theme of how our man-made environment, in particular industrial buildings and Brutalist architecture, sits within the natural landscape.

Translating these themes into functional ceramics can be a challenge and more recently I've focused on making two ranges of work that at first look very different to each other, however there are recurring themes which are common to both ranges. The first range is a series of bud vases with the form and surface design inspired by the natural landscape of the UK and the contrasting imagery of the geology of the wild Atlantic coast around Cornwall and its industrial mining heritage.

My second range of work takes on forms influenced by nature, predominately colour and texture of birds and fish, and often steers towards more utility ware such as jugs, jars and tea sets. I'm finding that most recently Brutalist architecture is starting influence the forms of my pots and I'm translating this influence into making larger pieces with multiple elements whilst continuing to use the textural surface designs of my other pots. This is taking me back to exploring the theme of man-made structures within nature.

Alongside these themes I am continually exploring the endless possibilities of working with clay. I particularly enjoy the technical nature of making ceramics and all aspects of the processes involved and ultimately how all these processes affect the finished piece.

Name three artists who have influenced your work.

It's hard to name just three artists, however if pushed I would say the ceramics of Hans Coper with his abstract yet always functional pots; Elizabeth Fritsch's hand-built pots with complex surface designs; and Le Corbusier, a pioneer of modern architecture.

What couldn't you live without?

Tea! It keeps me going throughout the day!!