



PRESS PACK 2018

Linda Southwell is a ceramic artist who creates stunning, floral sculptures in porcelain. She lovingly crafts every element of her work and applies each individual petal by hand.

Unit 5 West Workshops, Harley Studios, Welbeck, S80 3LW

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As a child I had the freedom of growing up on a dairy farm. We were always outside and were very connected to the land and nature: we respected it and never tired of its beauty. My Mum passed on her knowledge of plants and wildlife to us, so as an adult I find that experiencing nature makes me feel calm and connected and I want my work to allow people an opportunity to stop and to contemplate as one does on a walk or in a garden. I identify heavily with the English romantic poets, such as Wordsworth, who celebrated the English landscape with an almost 'religious' awe. We all need to value our environment more.

I 'invent' my sculptural, floral ceramics from memories of real plants. In developing my own gardens over the years I have a good understanding of plants and their forms. I'm always at a National Trust garden and spend a huge amount of time walking round Renishaw Hall's gardens as it's only a walk away from home.

In my studio there is very little 'equipment' and every element of my work is

made by hand, including the application of each individual petal, which all bear my fingerprint. My hands are my most important tool and I am in constant contact with the clay. There is a rawness to the unglazed surface that I've really responded to. I used to glaze my work but it obscures some of the intricate details. Glazing was also another step in the process which was risky and often disappointing so to add colour into the clay and therefore not have to worry about another stage makes me more relaxed during the making process. It's a little bit like an artist finding a 'blank' canvas intimidating and introducing colour to relieve some of the mental pressures!

My current work focuses on making larger-scale pieces that are complicated and risky to create but when successful create a huge statement in the room. I love my garden and through the dark winter months yearn to be outside, these sculptures are a way of bringing the outside in and giving a permanence to otherwise ephemeral natural forms.



EDUCATION

1992 - 1995 Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge

B A Hons English & Study of Art (2:1)

EXHIBITIONS / EVENTS

2018

21st May - 12th August

Showcase at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park

2017

3rd - 5th November

Lustre, Nottingham Lakeside Arts Centre

27th - 29th October

Art& York, York Racecourse

2016

June - October

Shaped from the Earth, Millenium Galleries, Sheffield

July - October

Clay Collective, The Platform Gallery, Clitheroe, Lancs

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2014 - 2016

Designed and delivered a 5 week 'Introduction to Pottery' evening class for a paint a pot studio called Fired Up and Painting, Aston Springs Farm, Sheffield. This ran on a regular basis.

2016 - Present

Design and deliver 10 week Pottery evening classes for beginners to intermediate level from my studio. These run three times a year. I also deliver day workshops and wheel experiences from my studio.





These delicate ceramic works of art are the result of lengthy experiments, carefully developing ideas that often start off as abstract designs and thoughts, resulting in beautifully finished sculptures.

2017

Linda was featured in a two page spread in Made lifestyle magazine.



2015

Linda's teaset was featured on the final episode of the first series of the "Great British Pottery Throwdown".