

PHOEBE CUMMINGS



Phoebe Cummings in her studio. Photo: Alun Callender.

BIOGRAPHY

Phoebe Cummings is an artist based in the U.K., working predominantly with raw clay to create time-based sculptures and environments. Her work often combines both real and imagined botanical forms, existing as material performances that touch on themes of existence and desire. The intense labour of making by hand sits in direct opposition to the briefness of the sculpture and its proximity to collapse. Large-scale durational works are made on site, and the same clay may be recycled and re-used at different locations through ongoing cycles of creation and destruction. The traces of the physical interactions between body and raw material are always present, with finger and palm prints exposed in the surface of the clay. The raw material takes an active role in the work, as it drips, dries, shrinks and cracks.

Cummings studied Three-Dimensional Crafts at the University of Brighton, before completing an MA in Ceramics & Glass at the Royal College of Art in 2005. She has undertaken artist-residencies, in the UK, USA and Greenland, including six months at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 2010 and a Ceramics Fellowship at Camden Art Centre 2012/13. Exhibitions and commissions have included the Museum of Arts & Design, New York; University of Hawai'i Art Gallery, Honolulu; Thomas Dane gallery, Naples; Pallant House Gallery, Chichester. She was the winner of the British Ceramics Biennial Award 2011 and the inaugural BBC Woman's Hour Craft Prize 2017. She is a Research Associate at the University of Westminster, Ceramics Research Centre-UK.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2026

Flowers, Birds and Fantasies, Lyndsey Ingram, London, UK

2025

The Laughing Stock of the Heartless Stars, The Brown Collection, London UK

2024

Dust to Dust, Sid Motion Gallery, London, UK

The Shape of Things, Pallant House, Chichester, UK

Don't we touch each other just to confirm we are still here?, Princeton Art Museum, NJ, US

2023

To Walk in the Image, Lismore Castle Arts, Ireland

2022

Tragedienne, Colnaghi, London, UK

A Matter of Life and Death, Thomas Dane Gallery, Naples, Italy

2020

This Was Now, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, UK

CUT, A-B Projects, Los Angeles, CA, US

2019

Beyond the Vessel, Mesher, Istanbul, Turkey

2018

European Ceramic Context, Bornholm Art Museum, Denmark

Material Environments, The Tetley, Leeds, UK

Humanism, Clayarch Museum, South Korea

Woman's Hour Craft Prize exhibition, V&A, London, UK

C'est le Bouquet!, Fondation d'entreprise Bernardaud, Limoges, France

2016

Material Language, New Art Centre- Roche Court, Salisbury, UK

2015

Fragile?, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, UK

2012

Swept Away: Dust, Ashes & Dirt in Contemporary Art & Design, MAD Museum, NY, US

Formed Thoughts, Jerwood Space, London, UK

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK

The Brown Collection, London, UK

York Art Gallery, York, UK

Southampton Art Gallery, Southampton, UK

The Shipley, Gateshead, UK

LYNDSEY INGRAM

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