

# J Kay Aplin

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**Member of IAC** (International Academy of Ceramics), Homo Faber selected artisan, member of CPA (Craft Potters Association)

## Profile

I am a sculptor with 29 years' experience creating site-specific work predominantly for the public realm. In recent years, I have been developing large-scale installation-based work for exhibitions, resulting from various residencies, employing a microscope to investigate found natural materials.

Since 2011, I have been curating international exhibitions of contemporary ceramics at my award-winning project The Ceramic House, my home and living showcase of my work, pop-up gallery, artist's residency and venue for events. <http://www.theceramichouse.co.uk/>

My cross disciplinary collaboration with sound artist Joseph Young has been developing since 2011 and has become a focus of The Ceramic House projects in addition to our own exhibition installations. Recent projects include *Fire and Water*, presented at Collect, Saatchi Gallery, *Interbeing*, a cultural exchange between China and the UK in 2021 and *Edges*, an investigation of ceramic and sound art practice by artists from Estonia, Ireland and the UK, between 2022 and 2024.

## Education

1992-95 BA (Hons) Public Art and Design, Chelsea College of Art, London  
1989-90 Foundation course in art/design, Central Saint Martins College of Art, London

## Solo Exhibitions

2023 *Botanical Structures*, Phoenix Artspace, Brighton  
2022 *Shetland Flora*, Kaolin, Stockholm, Sweden  
2022 *Fuego y Agua*, Agua de Borines, Asturias, Spain  
2019 *Fire & Water*, Festival of High Temperatures, Wroclaw, Poland  
2017 Mullae Arts Factory, Seoul, South Korea  
2017 *Pavilion*, British Ceramic Biennial, Stoke-on-Trent  
2017 Charleston, Sussex  
2015-16 *In A Shetland Landscape*, Shetland Museum and Archives, touring to In Camera Gallery Brighton, Guildhall Museum Rochester, Dover Arts Development Space  
2014 *Botanical Structures IV*, European Ceramic Context, Bornholm, Denmark

## Group Exhibitions

2024 *Mediterranean Ceramics and their Global Influence*, Armazém das Artes, Alcobaca, Portugal  
2024 *Azulejos*, IAC Members Exhibition, Caldas da Rainha, Portugal  
2024 *Edges*, Watts Gallery, Surrey  
2024 *Edges*, Wexford Arts Centre, Ireland  
2024 *Common Ground* Indian Ceramics Triennial, Gallerie Nvyā, Delhi, India  
2023 XVI International Biennial of Ceramic Art of Aveiro, Portugal  
2023 Summer Showcase, Bonhoga Gallery, Shetland  
2023 *Crossings*, The Ceramic House  
2022 *Peripheries*, The Ceramic House  
2022 *Towards the Light*, Regency Town House, Brighton  
2021 *Emptiness is Form*, The Ceramic House

2020	JOY, The Ceramic House
2019	Triennale of Kogei, Kanazawa, Japan
2019	Young Masters Maylis Grand Ceramics Prize 2019, La Galleria, London
2019	WFAIR exhibition, The Apple House Gallery, Guldagergaard, Denmark
2019	Collect Open, Crafts Council, Saatchi Gallery, London
2019	The Chocolate House, Brighton
2018	<i>The Shoe Box Show</i> , The Apple House Gallery, Guldagergaard, Denmark
2018	Kohila Woodfiring Symposium Exhibition, Estonia
2018	Art & Plant Show, Royal Horticultural Society, London
2018	Artrrooms Contemporary Art Fair, Melia White House, London
2017	<i>Made in Korea</i> , The Ceramic House, touring to Sladmore Contemporary, London
2016	Grow London, Hampstead Heath, London
2016	<i>Landscape : Islands</i> , an exploration into ceramics and sound, The Ceramic House
2015	<i>DARK/LIGHT</i> , The Ceramic House, Brighton, UK
2014	Elit-Tile Triennial, Dominican Republic
2014	<i>AOH Open</i> , Regency Town House, Brighton, UK
2014	<i>Fantastic Tales – Contemporary Danish Ceramics</i> , The Ceramic House, Brighton, UK
2013	<i>The Clay</i> , Albrectsens Galleri, Copenhagen, Denmark
2011	<i>Twisted</i> , Phoenix Brighton, UK

## Residencies

2023	Watts Gallery, Surrey with sound artist Joseph Young, part of <i>Edges</i>
2023	Interface, Connemara, Ireland with sound artist Joseph Young, part of <i>Edges</i>
2019	WFAIR guest artist, Guldagergaard, Denmark
2018	XVIII Kohila Symposium, Estonia
2015	WASPS residency at Scalloway Booth, Shetland with sound artist Joseph Young researching <i>In A Shetland Landscape</i>
2014	Guldagergaard, Denmark, making work for UK and Danish exhibitions
2013	Guldagergaard, Denmark, researching and designing new work

## Curating

2022-24	<i>Edges</i> , a project involving 3 nations: Estonia, Ireland and the UK involving: Watts Gallery, Wexford Arts Centre, Interface, Limerick School of Art & Design, Atlantic Technological University Galway, Framework Radio
2022	<i>Peripheries</i> , The Ceramic House, a residency and exhibition for Estonian ceramists and Irish sound artists
2021	<i>Interbeing</i> , involving: The Ceramic House, Shanghai Academy of Fine Arts, Powell-Cotton Museum, Park 19 Art Space (Guangzhou), London Chinese Community Centre, Chiddingstone Castle, Karin Weber Gallery (Hong Kong)
2020	JOY, The Ceramic House
2017	<i>Made in Korea</i> , The Ceramic House, transferring to Sladmore Contemporary
2016	<i>In A Shetland Landscape</i> (touring version), In Camera Gallery, Guildhall Museum, Rochester, Dover Arts Development Project Space
2016	<i>Landscape : Islands</i> International Residency Exhibition, Phoenix Brighton, Brighton Digital Festival
2016	<i>Landscape : Islands</i> , an exploration into ceramics and sound, The Ceramic House
2015	<i>In A Shetland Landscape</i> , Shetland Museum & Archives
2015	<i>DARK/LIGHT</i> - Black and White Contemporary Ceramics, The Ceramic House
2014	<i>FANTASTIC TALES</i> - Danish Contemporary Ceramics, The Ceramic House
2013	The Ceramic House 2013
2012	The Ceramic House 2012
2011	<i>Public Art in a Private Place</i> , The Ceramic House, featuring Brighton Festival HOUSE commission Base Sound::Sonic Gold

## Public Collections

Shetland Museum & Archives  
Agua de Borines, Asturias, Spain  
Guldagergaard, Denmark  
Kohila Woodfiring Symposium, Estonia  
Elit-Tile Triennial, Dominican Republic

### **Public art Commissions (selected)**

I specialise in architectural ceramics and my designs are situated in a variety of urban and rural locations, such as parks, gardens, playgrounds, hospitals, schools, housing estates and town centres. Projects involve collaborating with design teams, public bodies, architects, contractors and landscape architects, and communities. Clients include 11 local authorities, 3 NHS Trusts, 10 foundations, 3 contractors, 15 festivals and 15 schools.

2024-25	Nightingale Garden, Cambridge. Commissioner: Cambridge City Council
2022-23	Bidwell West, Houghton Regis. Commissioner: Isaac Mercer
2016-21	Regent's Place, Houghton Regis. Commissioner: Taylor Wimpey
2015	Tilery Courtyard redevelopment, Stockton-on-Tees. Commissioner: Groundwork
2014	Amphill Heights, Bedfordshire. Commissioner: Central Bedfordshire Council
2010	Canals for the Community, Stoke on Trent. Commissioner: British Waterways
2010	Olnafirth Primary School, Shetland. Commissioner: Shetland Islands Council
2008-9	Llanbradach Follies, South Wales. Commissioner: Caerphilly County Borough Council
2007-9	Cawdor Court, Bolton. Commissioner: Bolton at Home
2007	Gorebridge Care Home. Gorebridge Community Development Trust, Midlothian
2004-5	Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust. Commissioner: Willis Newson
2003-4	Gorseinon Regeneration Scheme, South Wales. Commissioner: Cwyath Cymru
2003	Lead artist, "Community Gateways". Commissioner: Caerphilly County Borough Council

### **Participatory Commissions (selected)**

Community involvement is integral to my approach to public commissions. I have worked with groups of all ages and abilities and projects include commissions for Historic Royal Palaces (HRP).

2012	Kensington Palace. Jubilee Plates project. Commissioner: HRP Jubilee – A View from the Crowd exhibition
2011	Common Sounds – Touching the Void. Commissioner: Fruit for the Apocalypse Queen's HEAD of Commonwealth exhibition, Commonwealth Institute Kensington Palace. Royal Wedding Commemorative project. Commissioner: HRP Ceramic doves for Enchanted Palace exhibition in Kensington Palace. Kensington Palace. Blue and White China project. Commissioner: HRP
2009-11	Hampton Court Palace. Tudor Plaques for palace gardens. Commissioner: HRP
2009	St Michael's School, Herefordshire. Commissioner: Creative Partnerships
2008	Wellingborough Artist in residence, Northamptonshire. Commissioner: Northamptonshire County Council
2003	Clissold Leisure Centre, Stoke Newington, London. Commissioner: Creative Partnerships

### **Private Commissions (selected)**

2023	Ceramic feature gateway, private home, Devon
2023	Ceramic fireplace surround, private home, Lewes
2017	Ceramic fireplace surround, private home, London
2017	Shetland Flora wall relief for private garden, Brighton
2016	Bespoke tiled kitchen, private home, London
2016	Relief tile panels for kitchen, Copenhagen, Denmark
2016	Botanical Structures wall relief for private garden, London
2016	Decorative ceramic gateway for private home, Devon

2015 Bespoke tiled kitchen, private home, Berlin, Germany  
2015 Ceramic feature entranceway for private house, El Llanu, Asturias, Spain  
2015 Botanical Structures panels for private conservatory, Devon  
2014 Bespoke tiled kitchen, private home, Brighton  
2013 Botanical Structures wall relief for private conservatory, Brighton  
2012 Ceramic feature fireplace surround for private home, Devon  
2012 Ceramic wall relief for private garden, Brighton  
2012 Ceramic wall relief for private garden, Lewes

### Grants and Awards (selected)

2023 Craft Potters Association  
2021 I-Portunus EU funding, Edges  
2020 Grants for the Arts, Arts Council England, *Interbeing*  
2017 Grants for the Arts, Arts Council England, *Made in Korea*  
2016 Artists International Development Fund, Arts Council England, Korea research trip  
2016 Grants for the Arts, ACE, *Landscape Islands*  
2014 a-n New Collaborations bursary, *In A Shetland Landscape*  
2014 Grants for the Arts, ACE, Contemporary Ceramics Exchange Denmark-Brighton  
2013 Best Artists Open House Award, Brighton Festival  
2004 Leonardo EC award, La Escuela des Artes Aplicadas y Oficios, Pamplona, Spain  
2003 Baring Foundation grant  
Pool of London Partnership grant  
2002 Cross River Partnership grant  
Paul Hamlyn Foundation grant  
Westminster City Arts Council Arts in the Community Award  
2000 Southwark Council Millennium Grant  
Westminster City Arts Council Arts in the Community Award

### Employment

2024 Visiting Lecturer, Atlantic Technological University, Galway, Ireland  
2024 Visiting Lecturer, Limerick School of Art, Ireland  
2014-17 Ceramics tutor, Charleston Trust, Sussex  
2010-14 Ceramics tutor, Phoenix Brighton  
2006-7 Quiche, Guatemala. Artcorps artist in residence with Riecken Foundation  
2002 Art animateur, City of London Festival  
2001-2 Education Animateur, Stoke Newington Festival  
1997-99 Lavuk Youth Club / Laerkevej Day Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark

### Conferences, Presentations

2023 Chiltern & Dacorum Potters Guild, UK  
2022 Melting Pot, IAC, Geneva  
2019 Park 19, Guangzhou, China  
2018 COCA Re-Stating Clay, York  
2018 ScanCeram, Tolne Skov Pavillion, Denmark  
2017 Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea  
2017, 2016 Spotlight, Phoenix Brighton  
2017, 2016, 2014 Brighton University, Brighton

### Blogs

Made in Korea 2016-17 [www.a-n.co.uk/blogs/made-in-korea](http://www.a-n.co.uk/blogs/made-in-korea)  
In A Shetland Landscape 2015 <http://www.a-n.co.uk/blogs/shetland-project-with-j-kay-aplin>  
UK-Denmark ceramics exchange project 2014 [www.a-n.co.uk/link/KayAplin-Denmark](http://www.a-n.co.uk/link/KayAplin-Denmark)  
Unravelling Shetland public art commission 2010 [www.a-n.co.uk/link/KayAplin-Shetland](http://www.a-n.co.uk/link/KayAplin-Shetland)