

# J Kay Aplin

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## Memberships

IAC (International Academy of Ceramics)

Selected member of CPA (Craft Potters Association)

Homo Faber selected artisan

## Profile

I am a sculptor with 30 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 project space <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.

Projects include *Fire and Water*, presented at Collect, Saatchi Gallery and Aguas de Borines, Spain, *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

2026 Commissioned public artwork for Çanakkale Biennial, Turkey

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

2026 Blanc de Chine International Ceramic Art Award, China

2025 32<sup>nd</sup> Ceramic Competition, "Mediterraneo", Grottaglie, Italy

2025 Invitation au Voyage, Salle Francis Crociani, Vallauris, France

2025 New Members Show (CPA), Contemporary Ceramics, London

2024 *Mediterranean Ceramics and their Global Influence*, Armazém das Artes, Alcobaça, Portugal

2024 *Azulejos*, IAC Members Exhibition, Caldas da Rainha, Portugal

2024 *Edges*, Watts Gallery, Surrey

2024	<i>Edges</i> , Wexford Arts Centre, Ireland
2024	<i>Common Ground Indian Ceramics Triennial</i> , Gallerie Nvyā, Delhi, India
2023	XVI International Biennial of Ceramic Art of Aveiro, Portugal
2023	Summer Showcase, Bonhoga Gallery, Shetland
2023	<i>Crossings</i> , The Ceramic House
2022	<i>Peripheries</i> , The Ceramic House
2022	<i>Towards the Light</i> , Regency Town House, Brighton
2021	<i>Emptiness is Form</i> , The Ceramic House
2020	<i>JOY</i> , 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	Artrooms 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> , Albrechtsens Galleri, Copenhagen, Denmark
2011	<i>Twisted</i> , Phoenix Brighton, UK

## Residencies

2025	A.I.R. Vallauris, France
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, UK. Partners: Watts Gallery, Wexford Arts Centre, Interface, Limerick School of Art & Design, Atlantic Technological University Galway, Framework Radio
2022	<i>Peripheries</i> , The Ceramic House, 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	<i>JOY</i> , 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

A.I.R Vallauris  
 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.

2024-26	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: Cwytaith 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)

2025	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)**

2025	British Council
2024	Culture Moves Europe
2023	Craft Potters Association
2021	I-Portunus EU funding, Edges
2020	Grants for the Arts, Arts Council England, <i>Interbeing</i>
2017	Grants for the Arts, Arts Council England, <i>Made in Korea</i>
2016	Artists International Development Fund, Arts Council England, Korea research trip
2016	Grants for the Arts, ACE, <i>Landscape Islands</i>
2014	a-n New Collaborations bursary, <i>In A Shetland Landscape</i>
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

### **Teaching, 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 Animator, Stoke Newington Festival
1997-99	Lavuk Youth Club / Laerkevej Day Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark

### **Conferences, Presentations**

2025	Symposium with Mette Maya Gregersen, Denmark
2024	Ceramics in the Mediterranean World, IAC, Portugal
2023	Chiltern & Dacorum Potters Guild, UK
2022	Melting Pot, IAC, Geneva
2019	Park 19, Guangzhou, China
2018	COCA Re-Statting 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

### Publications, magazines and articles (selected)

2024	ROSA magazine UK, Ceramics Ireland, London Potters UK
2023	Irish Arts Review, Ceramic Review (May/June) UK, Homes and Gardens UK, Dungarvan Leader Ireland, Infoceramica Spain, Ceramics Ireland
	Ceramics Now Romania, ROSA magazine UK
2022	Secret Brighton by Ellie Seymour UK, Vital Weekly UK, El Comercio Spain, Infoceramica Spain, Shetland News UK, Ceramics Monthly USA, ROSA magazine UK
	Ceramics Monthly (May) USA
2021	Perfection of Understanding artist book, The Ceramic House, UK
	Ceramic Review (May/June) UK, Ceramics Monthly (May) USA, Follies magazine UK, Crafts Magazine (May/June) UK, New Ceramics Germany, Inner Magazine UK, The Stand Hong Kong
2020	Ceramics Now Romania, Infoceramica Spain
2019	Obklady Czech Republic, Daily Mail UK, Les Editions Ateliers d'art France, Brighton and Hove Independent UK
2018	S+C Szkło i Ceramika Poland, Prestige Magazine UK, New Ceramics Germany
2017	Monthly Ceramic Art South Korea, Public Art South Korea, Ceramics Monthly (Sept & Nov) USA, Coast Magazine UK, Ceramic Review (Sept/Oct & May/June) UK, Made in Korea catalogue Sladmore Contemporary UK, Sussex Life UK, Crafts Magazine (Sept/Oct & May/June) UK
2016	Landscape : Islands catalogue The Ceramic House UK, Crafts Magazine UK
2015	Mr Partner Japan, Homes and Gardens UK, Ceramic Review UK, Art in Brighton 2015
2014	Bornholms Tidende Denmark, Fantastic Tales catalogue The Ceramic House UK, Pretty Nostalgic UK, Ceramic Review UK, Crafts Magazine UK, Absolute Magazine UK, Latest Magazine UK, Glazed Expressions TACS magazine UK, Arterritory online, Culture 24 online, Culture Nordic online
2013	BBC Homes and Antiques UK, Sussex Life UK, Sussex Society UK, A Magazine Australia
2012	Etc Magazine UK, Ceramic Review UK, Crafts Magazine UK, The Argus Magazine UK, Arty Magazine UK
2011	Viva Lewes
2009	BBC Wales feature, ITV news feature, Arts Wales, News Wales, Walesonline, Caerphilly Observer

### 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)