

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kiln Shift

explores craft, material and the post-industrial city during London Design Festival

London, UK – September 2026 – Contemporary craft has increasingly moved beyond the boundaries of the workshop, engaging with architecture, industry and the changing character of urban life. *Kiln Shift*, a new exhibition presented and curated by Clink Street Ceramics for London Design Festival 2026, brings together more than 20 artists and designers whose work reflects on these intersections through ceramics, furniture, glass, lighting and fine art.

Running from **12–20 September** at Clink Street Ceramics Gallery in Borough Market, the exhibition is at the centre of the Bankside Design District. *Kiln Shift* presents a cross-disciplinary survey of contemporary making shaped by post-industrial landscapes, material experimentation and collaborative practice. Rather than separating art, craft and design into distinct disciplines, *Kiln Shift* proposes a conversation between them, bringing together established practitioners and emerging voices working with clay, timber, glass, metal, textiles and photography.

Clink Street Ceramics is a Central London studio founded by potter James Sims in 2014 with the aim of reconnecting ceramics with the city. The studio's work has been exhibited by Max Radford Gallery numerous times, and in 2025 Clink Street Ceramics teamed up with Max Radford to co-present a major group exhibition titled *Dry Cleaning* in Borough Market. Over the past decade the studio has built a niche following for its hand-thrown ceramics incorporating in-glaze image transfers that reference Britain's urban history, architecture, rave culture and overlooked landscapes. Their work is sold by the V&A East Museum and Mill Yard Gallery in Cromford, and they operate London's only permanent public display dedicated to ceramics - the Clink Street Window Gallery on the Thames Path.

At *Kiln Shift*, Clink Street Ceramics will debut *Learning From Dungeness*, a new body of work inspired by the unique cultural and industrial landscape. The exhibition will also launch a collaborative series of handmade ceramic ashtrays developed with furniture maker Josh Page, reflecting the studio's continuing interest in collaboration across disciplines.

The wider exhibition extends this dialogue through work by artists whose practices challenge conventional boundaries between craft and contemporary art. Returning exhibitors Julia Ellen Lancaster, Holly Hooper, Abid Javed and Anouska Samms are joined by more than twenty artists exhibiting with the gallery for the first time. Together they present sculptural furniture combining wood and clay, materially experimental ceramics, hand-blown glass, modular lighting, mixed-media wall works, folklore-inspired objects and photography transferred onto porcelain. Several works are themselves collaborations, exploring how different materials and making traditions can generate new forms and narratives.

Holly Hooper will be showing new work created during a residency at the Corning Museum of Glass, combining references to traditional British ornament, with an interest in folklore and imagined landscapes. Anouska Samms and Abid Javed will bring new ceramic lighting pieces of works, and Julia Ellen Lancaster will present sculptural work that uses forms more readily recognisable as vessels, invoking both historical ceramic traditions and the proximity of the vessel form to the human body.

Among the artists exhibiting for the first time with Clink Street Ceramics are furniture designer Mandie Beuzeval, who references timber's circular system of using offcut pieces, and María Zepeda, whose works blur the boundaries between furniture, ceramics and cultural storytelling. Ceramic sculptor Will Carey contributes quietly poetic hand-built vessels that explore form and material through a process of slow making, while Lisa Denyer transforms reclaimed textiles and clay into richly textured wall-based works that question permanence and material value. Relik Objects presents sculptural domestic candles inspired by totemic forms, queer aesthetics and ritual. There are too many works to mention them all, and together these diverse practices reflect makers redefining the possibilities of craft through collaboration, sustainability and material experimentation.

The exhibition brings together a generation of makers increasingly unconcerned with distinctions between function and sculpture, or between design and fine art. Sustainability, material reuse, traditional craftsmanship and experimental fabrication emerge as recurring themes, while the handmade object becomes a lens through which to consider memory, place, identity and the changing urban environment.

The artists included in the exhibition are:

Gail Altschuler, Mandie Beuzeval, Will Carey, Clink Street Ceramics, Alison Cooke, Gigi Cooke & Hannah Baxendale, Lisa Denyer, Hannah Dinsdale, Louis Eager, Julia Ellen Lancaster, Milo Gibson, Holly Hooper, Abid Javed, Ruby Johnson, Sandy Layton, Patrick Lears, Maxim Lester & Audra Grays, Daniel Van Lierop & Aidan Ledward, Trista Li, Oliver Linnell, Josh Page, Relik Objects, Lou Salasca, Anouska Samms, Rosie Wang, Giles Watkins, Maria Zepeda.

Free to visit throughout London Design Festival, *Kiln Shift* offers a snapshot of contemporary craft practice at a moment when makers are redefining the relationship between material, object and city, demonstrating how ceramics and its neighbouring disciplines continue to provide fertile ground for experimentation, collaboration and cultural reflection.

Exhibition information

Kiln Shift

12–20 September 2026

16 Winchester Walk, Borough Market
London SE1

Free admission. All works will be available for purchase.

About Clink Street Ceramics

Clink Street Ceramics is a London-based ceramics studio and curatorial practice founded by James Sims in 2014. Alongside producing hand-thrown ceramics exploring Britain's urban culture and industrial heritage, the studio curates exhibitions of contemporary craft and operates London's only permanent public art space dedicated to ceramics through its Window Gallery on historic Clink Street.

Poster design by Julia Shapiro.