



50th Anniversary

A Special Newsheet
May 2025

www.southernceramicgroup.org.uk

Hello Everyone,

We are really happy to announce the programme for our 50th Anniversary celebrations at **The Brickworks Museum, Bursledon on Sunday 15 June**. The museum is between Southampton and Portsmouth close to the M27 and A27, and Swanwick Station 1.7mils away has a taxi rank.

Click on these links about the brickworks and its location.

[The Brickworks Museum official website](#)

[wikipedia Bursledon Brickworks](#)

[The Brickworks Museum Location Map](#)



The programme consists of Talks by **Guest Speakers**, **Demonstrations** by members and others, a collaborative getting your **Hands on Clay** activity to involve members as well as all visitors, the **Installation** pieces by members, and a **Celebration!** And of course, a chance to get a **free tour** of the fantastic **Brickworks Museum** (the only Victorian steam driven one in the country) with its huge machinery, giant kilns and piles of brick moulds. It should be a lovely day out for everyone - great catering on site (including lunches), and prosecco and cake at the end!

We are hoping that several old members will come and there will be a chance for all of us to get a feel for the history of the SCG and its current dynamic membership. The two guest speakers (Mella Shaw and Cadi F) will be around all day and are very keen to meet and chat to all of us about their passions and our work and interests. We are hoping to attract lots of visitors to the museum - the general public, young people who could be drawn into playing with clay, your friends and family. The Brickworks has very generously let us have access to their site and is allowing our members to enter for free. We can thank them by bringing in lots of visitors, so **do publicise the event to everyone you know**. We will be sending everyone a digital poster which can be sent on. **Please let us know if you are coming and we can create your free entry badge to the Museum.**

INSTALLATION:

Fifteen intrepid Southern Ceramic Group members have responded to the call to create an installation to hang in the historic drying room at The Brickworks Museum. From cancer cells to Citroen 2CVs, and from galaxies to global warming, our artists have responded to **'Suspended in Time'** with enthusiasm and courage, and it is shaping up to be a thought-provoking and visually stunning exhibition.

GUEST SPEAKERS: (details about the talks and the speakers at the end of this newsheet)

Talk 1: **Sounding Line** by Mella Shaw (talking about her work and the role of ceramic art in contemporary activism)

Talk 2: **Materials Matter** by Cadi F (talking about her journey from copper creations to ceramics)

'HANDS ON CLAY':

Guided by two of our long serving members, everybody aged 0 to 100+ years can work together in an **interactive activity** using the human hands to shape a **collaborative artwork**.

DEMONSTRATIONS:

Some of our members have volunteered to demonstrate their techniques. These include making medieval encaustic tiles (as in Winchester Cathedral), creating lichens in clay, firing low temp glazes with a hair dryer in 30 minutes, hand building and coiling pots, wheel throwing and slip decorations on plates.

CELEBRATION:

Between 4 and 5pm we will have the announcement of the **Winner of the Installation Challenge** and some celebratory Prosecco and Cake made by TBM catering. We hope all members, friends and TBM staff will join us.

CATERING:

The cafe at the Brickworks Museum serves on-site coffees and teas and some lovely snacks and lunches

PROGRAMME:

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| 10.00 | Members arrive and look around the museum
Installation ' Suspended in Time ' open throughout the day in the beautiful drying rooms |
| 11.15 to 12.30 | Talk 1 Sounding Line - Mella Shaw |
| 2.30 to 2.30 | Demonstrations, Hands on Clay, Meet Potters (and Lunch) |
| 2.30 to 3.45 | Talk 2 Materials Matter - Cadi F |
| 4.00 to 5.00 | Announcing Installation Winner, celebration drinks and cake |

Don't forget - **do get your friends and family to attend, and don't forget to let us know** you're coming (email me: vasureddyceramics@gmail.com) so that we can create a free entry badge for you.

Best for now
Vasu

Details for the guest speakers may be found on the following pages

SOUNDING LINE - Mella Shaw

Mella Shaw will discuss her environmental project Sounding Line - which won the 2023 British Ceramics Biennial Award prize. In this emotive work Mella made a large scale ceramics installation (using the remains of a beached Northern bottlenosed whale and sound vibration) as well as a film shot in the Outer Hebrides to address the devastating effect of sound and sonar pollution on deep diving whale species. She will discuss this work in light of the significant role art has in contemporary activism and will show the six minute film that features as a central and moving part of the project.



Mella is an artist using clay to make thought-provoking objects and site-specific installations centred around reoccurring themes of balance, tipping-points, fragility and loss. Her approach has its roots in activism - making publicly-engaged environmental work addressing specific issues in the global climate crisis – with an intention to bring lesser-known subjects to a new audience and enact change. Mella came to ceramic as a second career and has a background in Anthropology and museum curation.



Since graduating from the Royal College of Art in 2013 she has shown work widely both nationally and internationally, having pieces in various public and private collections. She lives and works in Edinburgh, is visiting lecturer in Ceramics at Central St Martin's and the Royal College of Art, London.

MATERIALS MATTER - Cadi F



Cadi's talk and presentation will use slides of her work as it developed from copper to ceramics, showing how and why she is driven to make work drawing on and inspired by her experiences of distance, connection, form and decoration. She will bring one leather-hard plate to demonstrate her working at the end of the talk.

Cadi Froehlich makes artworks to live with. She takes inspiration from traditional slipware and adds motifs of digital connection and humanity. Each unique piece is a sculpture which gives the viewer confidence to interact with the form and materials of the object. She appeared on Series 7 of 'The Great Pottery Throwdown'.

After working for 10 years as a website designer and producer in California and the UK, Cadi returned to college and graduated with an MA from Camberwell and Chelsea. Working in sculpture using salvaged copper and wires, she won a Jerwood Drawing prize in 2011, the Red Mansion prize and Beijing residency in 2015, and The London Group's President's Prize in 2016, and was elected as a member.

Reminded of her first love clay by the TV series 'The Great Pottery Throw Down', Cadi was inspired to find a ceramics studio space just in time for isolating there during the lockdown, and subsequently went on to appear on series 7 of the show. She continues to exhibit with The London Group several times a year in London and beyond, including the sculpture garden as part of the Waterloo Festival. She takes part in several curated ceramics fairs each year, alongside teaching workshops using slipware and hand building techniques.

