

Claire Curneen

Curriculum Vitae



Born 1968, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland

1986-1990 Crawford College of Art & Design, Cork, Diploma in Art & Design  
1990-1991 University of Ulster, Belfast, Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Arts  
1991-1992 University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, MA Ceramics

Working in Cardiff

Claire Curneen's sculptures are poignant reflections on the nature of humanity and our precarious place within it. Universal themes of loss, suffering and sacrifice underlie her intricate, porcelain figures, their translucent and fragile qualities offering potent metaphors through which to consider the human condition. Her ceramic figures have an imposing presence which tap into our desires, fears and mysteries. They are highly visceral, referencing Catholic imagery from the early Italian Renaissance.

Porcelain, terracotta, and black stoneware create an exquisite textural finish to these works, with dribbles of glaze and flashes of gold to accentuate their rich qualities. These figures bear bold narratives of human experiences and explore themes around death, rebirth and the sublime.

"Curneen's work offers us a precious liminal space of contemplation, like an altar or an icon but crucially, if there is devotion here, it is to humanity and creativity."

Teleri Lloyd Jones for the exhibition catalogue 'to this I put my name'

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 *A Creature Made of Clay*, James Freeman Gallery, London  
2022 *Through Living Roots*, Anima Mundi, St. Ives, Cornwall  
2015 *To This I Put My Name*, Kunstforum Solothurn, Switzerland  
2014 *To This I Put My Name*, Ruthin Craft Centre, Ruthin, Wales & tour  
2013 *Claire Curmeen*, La ferme de la Chapelle, Switzerland  
2011 *New Work, Claire Curmeen*, Beaux Arts, Bath  
2008 *Succour*, Ruthin Craft Centre, Ruthin, Wales & tour  
2007 *Secondary Relics*, Black Swan Arts, Frome, Somerset  
2004 *Claire Curmeen*, Ruthin Craft Centre, Ruthin, Wales & tour  
1997 *New Work, Claire Curmeen*, Ruthin Craft Centre, Ruthin, Wales & tour

## Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *1400 °C Porcelaine et moi, émois*, Bernardaud Foundation, Limoges, France  
2020 *Adrian Sassoon at The London House of Modernity*, London  
*Beyond the Vessel: Narratives in Contemporary European Ceramics*, Messums  
Wiltshire, Salisbury, Wiltshire  
2019 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
2018 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*On a Pedestal; Celebrating the Contemporary Portrait Bust in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*,  
Castletown House, Co. Kildare, Ireland  
2017 *Crafts Council*, Collect Open, Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Ferrin Contemporary*, New York Ceramics & Glass Fair, USA  
2015 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
2014 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
2013 *New Blue-and-White*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA  
2012 *Never Never*, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth  
*Reflection*, Galerie Kuntsforum Solothurn, Switzerland  
*New World: Timeless Vision*, IAC exhibition, New Mexico Museum of Art, USA  
*When I Woke*, Llantarnum Grange Arts Centre, Wales (curator with catalogue)  
2011 *Placement: Ceramic Connections Wales/Scotland*, Oriel Davies, Mid Wales  
*Lost Certainty - Claire Curmeen & Alice Kettle*, Contemporary Applied Arts, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Art Antiques London, Kensington Gardens, London  
*3x2*, The Shed, Galway, Ireland  
2010 *Pretty young Things*, Lacoste Gallery, Boston, USA  
*Claire Curmeen and Olivia Chargue*, Le Don du Fel, France  
*Passage*, Craft in the Bay, Cardiff, Wales  
*Parings*, collaboration with textile designer Alison Welsh, MMU Manchester  
*Contemporary British Studio Ceramics: The Grainer Collection*. Mint Museum, Charlotte,  
USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, London Art Fair, The Business Design Centre, London  
2009 *British Ceramics*, Bavarian Crafts Council, Germany  
*Inspired by The Wallace Collection*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar,  
London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, London Art Fair, The Business Design Centre, London  
2008 *Adrian Sassoon*, London Art Fair, The Business Design Centre, London

**Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)**

- 2008 *Myths and Legends*, Contemporary Applied Arts, London
- 2007 *Adrian Sassoon*, The International Art + Design Fair, New York, USA  
*Secondary Relics*, Black Swan Arts, Frome  
*Adrian Sassoon*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London  
*Menschenbild*, Galerie Kunstforum, Solothurn, Switzerland  
*Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, SOFA, New York, USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, London Art Fair, The Business Design Centre, London  
*Catalyst*, The Gallery, Ruthin Craft Centre, Ruthin, tour (catalogue)
- 2006 *Adrian Sassoon*, The International Art + Design Fair, New York, USA  
*Figurative Ceramics*, Cervini Haas Gallery, Scottsdale, USA  
*The Human Condition*, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh  
*Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, SOFA, New York, USA  
*Collecting Ceramics*, Ruthin Craft Centre, Ruthin, Wales  
*Narratives*, Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea  
*Adrian Sassoon*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London  
*One Piece: One Artist*, Marianne Heller Gallery, Heidelberg, Germany  
*Adrian Sassoon*, London Art Fair, The Business Design Centre, London  
*Ruthin Craft Centre*, COLLECT, Victoria & Albert Museum, London
- 2005 *Adrian Sassoon*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, London Art Fair, The Business Design Centre, London  
*'Faith'* Nottingham City Museums & Galleries, Nottingham  
*Clay Gallery*, SOFA, New York, USA
- 2004 *Adrian Sassoon*, The International Art + Design Fair, New York, USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, London Art Fair, The Business Design Centre, London  
*Clay Gallery*, SOFA, New York, USA
- 2003 *Adrian Sassoon*, The International Art + Design Fair, New York, USA  
*Telltale; Narratives in Contemporary Craft*, Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead, (catalogue)  
*Adrian Sassoon*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London  
*Flower Power*, Norfolk Museum & Archaeology Service and Sheffield Galleries & Museum Trust, (catalogue)  
*Adrian Sassoon*, ART2003, The Business Design Centre, London
- 2002 *Claire Curmeen & Heather Belcher*, Contemporary Applied Arts, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London
- 2001 *Figurative Ceramics*, Crafts Council Shop at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London  
*Made at the Clay Studio*, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, USA  
*Claire Curmeen*, New Work, Crawford Arts Centre, St. Andrews  
*Nancy Margolis Gallery*, New York, USA
- 2000 *New Masters, Old Masters*, Oxford Gallery, Oxford  
*Firing Imagination*, British Council Exhibition, Sao Paulo (catalogue)
- 1998 *Ceramic Series / Claire Curmeen*, Aberystwyth Art Centre (catalogue)
- 1996 *Philip Eglin and Claire Curmeen*, Contemporary Applied Arts, London

## Awards

- 2012 Creative Wales Ambassador Award, 'The Museum Object as a point of Reference'  
2008 Selected for Tawain Ceramics Biennale, Taipei County Yingge Ceramics Museum  
2005 Selected for 3rd World Ceramic Biennale 2003, Korea International Competition  
2004 Selected for 1st European Ceramics Competition, Greece  
2003 Shortlisted for the Arts Foundation Award for Ceramics, UK  
Selected for World Ceramic Biennale 2003, Korea International Competition  
2001 Gold Medal in Craft & Design, National Eisteddfod of Wales  
Le Prix de l'AMN, Triennale Internationale Porcelaine Contemporaine, Nyon  
Selected for the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Competition for Contemporary Art,  
Faenza, Italy  
1999 Winner of the Sculpture Category, Ceramics Monthly, USA  
1995 Crafts Council Setting Up Grant

## Residencies

- 2000 Crawford Arts Centre, St Andrews, Scotland  
The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, USA

## Public Collections

Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth, Wales  
Cleveland Craft Centre, Middlesbrough  
Crafts Council, London  
Manchester City Art Gallery, Manchester  
Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough  
National Museum & Gallery of Wales, Cardiff  
National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh  
Oldham Art Gallery and Museum, Manchester  
ShIPLEY Art Gallery, Gateshead  
The Atkinson, Southport  
The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge  
Ulster Museum, Belfast, Northern Ireland  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London  
York City Art Gallery, York  
Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, Eire  
Limerick City Gallery of Art, Limerick, Eire  
Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece  
Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, Arizona, USA  
Clay Studio, Philadelphia, USA  
Kennedy Museum of Art, Athens, Ohio, USA  
Mint Museum of Craft + Design, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA  
Icheon World Ceramic Centre, Gyeonggi-do, Korea  
Taipei Ceramics Museum, Taiwan

### Bibliography: Books & Catalogues

- 2004 *World Famous Ceramic Artist Studios*, volume I Europe, Bai Ming  
*500 Figures in Clay*, Lark Books, USA
- 2002 *Ceramic Figures*, Michael Flynn, A&C Black Ltd.
- 2001 *The Figure in Fired Clay*, Betty Blandino, A&C Black Ltd.  
*The Human Form in Clay*, Jane Waller, Crowood Press Ltd.

### Bibliography: Articles & Essays

- 2014 *To This I Put My Name*, Craft Arts International, Laura Gray  
*An In-between Space*, CCQ, Catherine Roche  
*Shirting States: Liminal Narratives in the work of Claire Curneen*, New Ceramics,  
Catherine Roche
- 2013 *New Blue and White at the MFA*, Boston Globe
- 2011 *Review of 'Pretty Young Things at Lacoste Gallery*, Ceramics Arts and Perception,  
Christine Temin
- 2006 Ceramics Arts and Perception, issue 62, Alex McErlain
- 2005 New Ceramics, issue 5, Amanda Fielding, profile on *Claire Curneen*
- 2003 Keramik Magazin, issue 4, Ian Wilson, *Contemplation*
- 2002 Kerameiki Techni, issue 42, Natasha Mayo, *The Role of Narrative in Claire Curneen's  
Ceramics*
- Ceramic Review, issue 195, Nicolas Lees, *A Melancholy Beauty*
- 1999 Ceramics Arts and Perception, issue 38, Sarah James, *Searching for Answers*  
Ceramics Monthly, International Competition