

ADRIAN SASSOON

Julian Stair

Curriculum Vitae



Born 1955, Bristol, England

1974-1978	Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, London, BA Ceramics
1978-1981	Royal College of Art, London, MA Ceramics
1998-1999	Fellow in Craft and Criticism, University of Northumbria at Newcastle
2002	Royal College of Art, London, PhD: Critical Writing in British Studio Ceramics

Working in London

Julian Stair's works are often described as minimalist. His pieces are noted for their restrained decoration, the elimination of unnecessary details and the use of a muted colour palette. Julian is interested in the place of pottery in contemporary culture and in the ideas of function rather than in the concepts of abstraction and emptiness. The shapes, surfaces and decoration, or rather the lack of it, all suggest the possibility of use, if not its reality. Stair's cups and teapots are not intended to remain forever on their grounds, or pedestals, but rather the grounds are a home for the cups from which they are removed and returned. Thus this removal from and return to the grounds becomes part of the ritual of their use and plays on the banality of the teacup and the sacredness of the ceremonial cup.

Julian's work echoes the minimalism of the 1960s in that it can be described as having no internal composition, is a function of the space it inhabits and has a hint of the prototype about it. Julian also draws on the still life, a genre artists have used traditionally to comment on everyday life and in which every element had a meaning known to both the artist and the viewer. Stair's use of the cup with its connotations of consumption allied to its placement on a pedestal perhaps says something about the sacredness of consumption in contemporary life.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 *Julian Stair: Art, Death and the Afterlife*, Sainsbury Centre, Norwich
- 2018 *Equivalence*, Corvi-Mora, London
- 2016 Soane Museum, London (concluding exhibition Artist in Residence 2016 - 2017)
Quotidian, Museo Marino Marini, Florence, Italy
Quietus Revisited: The Vessel, Death and the Human Body, Manchester Cathedral, Manchester
The Framed Vessel (with Simone ten Hompel), Galerie Rosemarie Jäger, Hochheim, Germany, with accompanying seminar
- 2014 *Legacy: Two works on hope & memory* (with Clare Twomey), COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London
Legacy: Two works on hope & memory (with Clare Twomey), Forty Hall & Estate, Enfield
The Matter of Life and Death, York St. Mary's, York Museums Trust
Julian Stair: Quotidian, Corvi-Mora, London
- 2013 *Julian Stair Quietus: The Vessel, Death and the Human Body*, Somerset House, London; Winchester Cathedral, Winchester; The National Museum & Gallery of Wales, Cardiff
- 2012 *Julian Stair Quietus: The Vessel, Death and the Human Body*, MIMA, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough
- 2010 *Julian Stair Ceramics*, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2005 *Terra Keramik*, Galerie Terra, Delft, The Netherlands
- 2004 COLLECT, V&A Museum, London (juried individual exhibitor)
- 2002 Egg, London
- 2001 Contemporary Applied Arts, London
- 2000 Anton Gallery, Washington DC, USA
- 1999 *Julian Stair*, Lynn Strover Gallery, Cambridge
- 1998 Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh
- 1997 *Showcase Exhibition*, Contemporary Applied Arts, London
- 1996 Crafts Council Shop, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
- 1995 Paul Rice Gallery, London
- 1992 Oriol 31, Davies Memorial Group, Newtown, Wales
- 1990 South Bank Craft Shop, Royal Festival Hall, London
- 1988 Anton Gallery, Washington DC, USA
- 1987 Anatol Orient, London
- 1986 Westminster Gallery, Boston, USA
- 1985 Anatol Orient, London
- 1984 Crafts Council Shop, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
 Oxford Gallery, Oxford
- 1983 Katherine House Gallery, Marlborough

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 *Adrian Sassoon*, The Treasure House Fair, London
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands
Julian Stair and Shoji Kamoda, The Inevitability of Vessels, Mashiko Museum of Ceramic Art, Mashiko, Japan
- 2022 *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
Other Lives, Oxford Ceramics Gallery, Oxford
- 2020 *Adrian Sassoon at The London House of Modernity*, London

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 2019 *Adrian Sassoon*, Salon of Art & Design, New York, USA
Adrian Sassoon, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
- 2018 *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
Adrian Sassoon, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
Where is God in the 21st Century?, Chaiya Art Awards, OXO Tower, London
Working With, Oxford Ceramics Gallery, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London
Things of Beauty Growing: British Studio Pottery, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2017 *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
Things of Beauty Growing: British Studio Pottery, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT, USA
Termini, Cross MacKenzie Gallery, Washington DC, USA
Adrian Sassoon, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
Rosemarie Jäger Gallery, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London
Exempla, Munich, Germany
Material: Earth, Messum's, Tisbury, Wiltshire
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2016 *Re-naturing the Vessel: the shared approach of Julian Stair and Simone ten Hompel'*, Rosemarie Jäger Gallery, Hochheim, Frankfurt, and Oxford Ceramics Gallery
Corvi-Mora Gallery, Frieze London, Regent's Park, London
Adrian Sassoon, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
Adrian Sassoon, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
Cause and Effect, National Centre for Craft and Design, Sleaford
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
Big Ceramics: Discover Clay on a Monumental Scale, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Wolverhampton
- 2015 *Corvi-Mora Gallery*, Frieze London, Regent's Park, London
Vessels: The Spirit of Modern British Ceramics, Mashiko Museum of Ceramic Art, Japan
Adrian Sassoon, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
Adrian Sassoon, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
Adrian Sassoon, Art Antiques London, Kensington Gardens, London
Adrian Sassoon, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London
Contemporary Applied Arts, London
Fragile?, National Museum Cardiff, Cardiff
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2014 *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
Corvi-Mora Gallery, Frieze London, Regent's Park, London
Adrian Sassoon, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
Vessels: The Spirit of Modern British Ceramics, Mashiko Museum of Ceramic Art, Mashiko, Japan
Adrian Sassoon, Art Antiques London, Kensington Gardens, London
Adrian Sassoon, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London
techne, n: A convergence between art, craftsmanship and architecture, Den Frie Centre for Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
Vivarium, Corvi-Mora, London

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 2013
Adrian Sassoon, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
Cheongju Biennale, South Korea
Simon Carroll, Walter Keeler, Janet Leach, Katharine Pleydel-Bouverie, Julian Stair, Corvi-Mora Gallery, London
Modern Makers, Chatsworth House, Derbyshire
Adrian Sassoon, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
Adrian Sassoon, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2012
Adrian Sassoon, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
Adrian Sassoon, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
Curious, West Norwood Cemetery, London
Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2011
Adrian Sassoon, Pavilion of Art & Design New York, New York, USA
Adrian Sassoon, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
British Ceramics Biennale Award, Stoke-on-Trent
Adrian Sassoon, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
Between Dimensions The Representation of the Object, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough
Vanguard Court, Mashiko Museum of Ceramic Art, Mashiko, Japan
Tea Tisch, Galerie Marianne Heller, Germany
Overthrown: Clay without Limits, Denver Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, USA
Third International Triennial of Silcate Arts, Hungary
Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon, SOFA, New York, USA
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2010
Hot Spot, Joanna Bird, London
Adrian Sassoon, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
Adrian Sassoon, Masterpiece, Former Chelsea Barracks, London
Intersecting Disciplines, University of the Arts, Camberwell, London
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
One Place To Call Home, MIMA, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough
Contemporary British Studio Ceramics The Grainer Collection, The Mint Museum, Charlotte, USA
Adrian Sassoon, London Art Fair, Business Design Centre, London
- 2009
Adrian Sassoon, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London
Adrian Sassoon, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London
Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon, COLLECT, The Saatchi Gallery, London
Keramik aus Grossbritannien, Bayerischer Kunstgewerbe-Verein, Munich, Germany
Cups, Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Bovey Tracey, Devon
Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon, SOFA, New York, USA
After Life, Egyptian Galleryes, The Manchester Museum
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
Adrian Sassoon, London Art Fair, Business Design Centre, London
- 2008
Monumental Pots, Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon, COLLECT, V&A Museum, London
Material Culture: Recently Gifted Works, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough
Collecting a Kaleidoscope, Designed & Made Gallery, Newcastle

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 2008 *The Cup Show*, Contemporary Applied Arts, London
Joanna Bird at Browse & Darby, London
- 2007 *Hue, Line and Form – Part Two*, Contemporary Applied Arts, London
Contemporary Collections, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea
- 2006 *To Hold*, Farmleigh House Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
Collecting Contemporary Ceramics, The Gallery, Ruthin, Wales
- 2005 *Adrian Sassoan*, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London
Modern Pots, Ceramics from the Lisa Sainsbury Collection, Dulwich Picture Gallery, London
Functional Form Now, Galerie Besson, London
Celebrating 30 Years, Crafts Council Shop, V&A Museum, London
Table Manners, Crafts Council Gallery, London
Meister der Moderne, Munich, Germany
Adrian Sassoan, London Art Fair, Business Design Centre, London
- 2004 *Everything But: Contemporary English Kitchenware*, British Council touring exhibition
Dressing for Dinner, Crafts Council Shop, V&A Museum, London
Teatotal, Crafts Council Gallery Shop, London
Master & Pupil, Clay, Los Angeles, USA
Making It Yours, Crafts Council, London
Out of Hand, Browse & Darby, London
- 2003 *Highlights Englischer Keramik*, Hetjens-Museum, Dusseldorf, Germany
Adrian Sassoan, The International Art & Design Fair, New York, USA
2nd World Ceramic Biennale, Seoul, Korea
Everything But: Contemporary English Kitchenware, British Council, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Beauty Through Use, Yufuku Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Adrian Sassoan, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London
Adrian Sassoan, ART203, Business Design Centre, London
Slipped by Design, Browse & Darby, London
- 2002 *Ceramic Modernism*, The Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, Ontario, Canada
Containing Ceramics: Highlights from the British Crafts Council, SOFA, New York, USA
Adrian Sassoan, The International Art & Design Fair, New York, USA
Adrian Sassoan, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London
- 2001 *Eight Caddies*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh
Modern Pots: Ceramics from the Lisa Sainsbury Collection, Sainsbury Centre, Norwich
Land, Ingleby Gallery (with Richard Long, Paul Nash & Thomas Joshua Cooper)
International Fine Ceramics II, Alpha House, Dorset
British Ceramics, Clay Studio, Philadelphia, USA
Adrian Sassoan, The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London
Adrian Sassoan, ART2001, Business Design Centre, London
- 2000 *Hand to Hand; Eileen Cooper & Julian Stair*, Art First, London
Summer Show, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh
The Times of Our Lives: Rites of Passage, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester
Adrian Sassoan, ART2000, Business Design Centre, London
- 1999 *Adrian Sassoan*, Olympia Fine Art & Antiques, London
Constructions: Ceramics and Memory Architecture, Galerie Marianne Heller, Germany

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 1999 *History and Invention*, Janet Mansfield Gallery, Australia
The New White, 20th Century Galleries, V&A Museum, London
Hand to Hand: Eileen Cooper & Julian Stair, Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead
A Grand Design, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
- 1998 *Pittsburgh Collects*, Carnegie Mellon Museum, Pittsburgh, USA
 Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, with Andy Goldsworthy
English Porcelain, Anton Gallery, Washington DC, USA
Spirit of the Times, Bowes Museum, Co. Durham
Porcelain Cargo, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh
Contemporary Pots, 50th Anniversary Exhibition, Contemporary Applied Arts, London
Babette's Fest, Galerie Handwerk, Munich, Germany
- 1997 *Tabletop*, Cleveland Crafts Centre, Middlesbrough
English Urban: American Rural, Shillam & Smith, London
Time for Tea, British Council, touring to Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, Hong Kong
The Contemporary Teapot, Keramikmuseet Grimmerhus, Kongebrovej, Denmark
Dish of the Day, British Council, touring to Europe & South America
- 1996 *The Crafts Council Collection: New for the Nineties*, Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead
Living at Belsay, Northumberland
Made to Use, New Ashgate Gallery, Farnham
- 1993 *Visions of Craft 1972-1993*, Crafts Council, London
- 1991 *Gaste aus England & Wales*, Museum fur Kunst & Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany
- 1990 *Lucie Rie, Hans Coper, And Their Pupils: Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts;*
 Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
- 1984 *Keramik aus England*, Museum der Stadt, Worms, Germany
- 1983 *A Celebration of the Cut Out*, Anatol Orient and touring
Best of 401 ½, Westminster Gallery, Boston, USA
- 1982 *Jugend Gestalt*, Exempla 82, Munich, Germany
Christopher Wood Gallery, London
401 ½: Past and Present, British Craft Centre, London
Clay in the Garden, Seven Dials Gallery, London
- 1981 *Christopher Wood Gallery*, London
Paul Rice Gallery, London

Awards

- 2017 Bavarian State Prize, Exempla Fair, Munich, Germany
- 2015 Named Expert Advisor, The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest
- 2011 Grant for the Arts, Arts Council England
 Finalist, International Triennial of Silicate Arts, Kecskemét, Hungary, Highly Commended
- 2005 Hamlyn Award
- 2004 European Achievement Award, World Crafts Council
 Queen Elizabeth Scholarship
- 2003 Finalist, World Ceramic Exposition, Seoul, Korea
- 1998 British Council Grant, exhibition in USA

Awards (continued)

1997	London Arts Board Grant Crafts Council Publication Grant
1991	British Council Grant, exhibition in Germany
1986	British Council Grant, exhibition in USA
1985	Sainsbury Trust

Selected Public Collections

Aberystwyth University Ceramic Collection & Archive, Wales
Abingdon County Hall Museum, Abingdon
British Council
British Museum, London
Cleveland Crafts Centre, Middlesbrough
Crafts Council, London
Contemporary Art Society, London
Gallery Oldham, Manchester
Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea
Hove Museum & Art Gallery, Hove
Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough
National Museum & Gallery of Wales, Cardiff
Paisley Museum & Art Gallery, Paisley
Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich
ShIPLEY Art Gallery, Gateshead
Stoke-On-Trent Museum, Stoke-On-Trent
The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
Ulster Museum, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Victoria and Albert Museum, London
York City Art Gallery, York
Boymans Van Beuningen Stichting Museum, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Grassi Museum, Leipzig, Germany
Kolumba Museum, Cologne, Germany
Hong Kong Museum of Art, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Mashiko Museum of Ceramic Art, Mashiko, Japan
Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, Arkansas, USA
The Mint Museum, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA
Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island, USA
Museum of Arts and Design, New York, USA
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

Publications

2024	<i>Julian Stair Memory, Material, Ceramics</i> , Ashley Thorpe, Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, USA
2018	<i>Contemporary Clay and Museum Culture</i> , Co-editor with C. Brown & Co., Twomey, Routledge

Publications (continued)

- 2018 *From Precepts to Praxis: The Origins of British Studio Pottery*, catalogue essay for *Things of Beauty Growing: British Studio Pottery*, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT, USA, and Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
- 2017 Introductory essay on 20th century English studio ceramics, *Significant Form: English Studio Ceramics*, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT, USA
- 2016 *Re-Inventing the Wheel: the origins of Studio Pottery*, reprint for *The Ceramics Reader*, ed. Kevin Petrie and Andrew Livingstone, Bloomsbury Press
The Spark that Ignited the Flame: 1923, Hamada, Paterson's Gallery and English studio pottery, *Ceramics, Art and Cultural Production in Modern Japan*, ed. Dr. M. Jones, Sainsbury Institute for the Studies of Japanese Arts and Culture and Dr. L. Cort, Smithsonian Institute, University of Hawaii Press
Contemporary Clay and Museum Culture, co-editor, Ashgate/Taylor & Francis / Routledge
The Origins of Studio Pottery: From Precepts to Praxis, catalogue essay for *Things of Beauty Growing*, Yale Centre for British
- 2014 *Factive Plasticity: The Abstract Pottery of William Staite Murray*, *Art and Life: Ben Nicholson, Winifred Nicholson, Christopher Wood, Alfred Wallis, William Staite Murray, 1920-1931*, touring exhibition, Leeds Art Gallery, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge & Dulwich Picture Gallery, London
The Last Sane Man: Michael Cardew, Modern Pots, Colonialism and the Counterculture, Tanya Harrod. *Crafts*, vol. 240, Jan/Feb
National Life Stories 2014/15 recorded interviews for The British Library
- 2010 *Hybridity, Interpretation and Consumption: New Ceramics and Glass in Britain Today*, *European Triennial for Ceramics and Glass*, Mons, Belgium: World Crafts Council
Glass Needs Space, interview with Anna Dickinson, *The Von Bartha Quarterly Report*, 04/2010, Basel, Switzerland
- 2009 *Omega*, *American Craft* (September)
The Employment of Matter: Pottery of the Omega Workshop, essay for *Beyond Bloomsbury: Designs of the Omega Workshop 1913-19* (London: Courtauld Gallery)
Collecting Objects, *Collect: The International Art Fair for Contemporary Objects* (London: Crafts Council)
- 2006 *Striking Attitudes*, essay examining the relationship between craft and technology for the exhibition *Interface: Concept to Reality*, Devon Guild
- 2005 NCECA Baltimore Conference Report, *Crafts*, no.195 (July/August)
Harvard conference report, 'Japanese Ceramics; Cultural Roots', *Crafts*, no.192 (January/February)
- 2004 Japanese Modernisation and Mingei Theory', *Crafts*, no.191 (November/December)
A Sense of Place, SOFA Chicago catalogue
Selector's Comments, Chelsea Craft Fair catalogue
- 2003 *Rational Primitives*, *Craft*, no.180 (January/February)
Constructed Clay-Modern British Hand building, *Crafts*, no.183 (July/August)
- 2002 *An Entrepreneurial Spirit*, Chelsea Craft Fair catalogue
Pioneer Pottery by Michael Cardew, *Crafts*, no. 179 (November/December)
- 2000 *Re-Inventing the Wheel*, *The Persistence of Craft*, ed. P. Greenhalgh, A&C Black
Anthology of Critical Writing in British Ceramics, 1920-90, A&C Black/Herbert Press

Publications (continued)

- 1999 *The Body Politic: The Role of the Body and Contemporary Craft*
Critical Dimensions: Seminars for the Crafts
Re-Inventing the Wheel, The Making of Craft, ed. Paul Greenhalgh, A&C Black/V&A
- 1998 *Genius & Circumstance*; catalogue essay Hamada: Ditchling Museum & High Cross
House; Ashmolean Museum, Oxford and Bonhams, London
- 1997 *London Clay; Urban Studio Ceramics*, V&A, conference convener
Studio Ceramics: Ghetto or Ghetto Mentality?, *Obscure Objects of Desire?*
Reviewing the Crafts in the 20th Century (London: Crafts Council)
Guest Editorial, *Studio Pottery*, no.26 (April/May)
Studio Ceramics: Ghetto or Ghettoisation?, *The Studio Potter* (December)