

Press release: For immediate release

## Winner of £5,000 British Ceramics Biennial 2015 AWARD announced

[www.britishceramicsbiennial.com](http://www.britishceramicsbiennial.com) | @BCBfestival

Sam Bakewell has won the 2015 British Ceramics Biennial AWARD for his installation 'Imagination Dead Imagine' receiving a prize of £5,000 and a commission for the 2017 British Ceramics Biennial.

'Imagination Dead Imagine', offers a purpose built clay structure housing twelve-years of occasional object making, ranging from spontaneous tests to a small hand carved piece taking seven-years to complete.

Sam's work was chosen from a shortlist of twelve artists, who have each presented new works exemplifying the energy and vitality of British contemporary ceramics. Their work ranges from monumental architectural detail to intricate, intimate contemplative pieces, alongside performative and interactive works with conceptual depth, confident expressive flair and exquisite technical accomplishment. The other AWARD exhibitors are: Anne Gibbs, Amy Hughes, Bethan Lloyd Worthington, Ingrid Murphy & Jon Pigott, Aneta Regel, James Rigler, Paul Scott, Mella Shaw, Caroline Tattersall and Andrea Walsh.

Chair of the selection panel and Senior Curator of Ceramics and Glass at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Alun Graves, said, 'AWARD sought work that was energetic, challenging and current, and that confidently presented itself for critical appraisal. The selected artists have admirably met that brief. The panel of judges were hugely impressed by all eleven presentations, and offer congratulations to each and every one of the artists. We believe it is the best AWARD yet.'

'Selecting a winner was no easy matter, but a huge enthusiasm for Sam Bakewell's presentation was shared by all members of the panel, and we are delighted to name him the winner of British Ceramics Biennial AWARD 2015. We felt that Sam delivered on every front, exhibiting work that is exceptional and engaging, and underpinned by a rich vein of conceptual thought. His pseudo-shaman's hut is an ambitious and impressive structure, and one that creates an extraordinary and other-worldly space in which to encounter the highly detailed objects it contains. Overall, it is a truly remarkable and memorable installation, and an eloquent act of self-curation.'

In response to winning AWARD 2015, Sam said, "I'm really shocked and happy to have won. The project was a personal one, so means a lot that it seems to have translated



to others as well. I've loved showing alongside good friends in the one off context of Spode, and am very humbled by all the help and kind words I've received."

The AWARD exhibition is the festival centre-piece showing in the China Hall on the original Spode factory site and runs until 8 November 2015.

Previous AWARD winners include: Andrew Burton, Gwen Heeney and Vicky Shaw, Robert Dawson, Neil Brownsword, Louisa Taylor, Phoebe Cummings and Nao Matsunaga, who following winning AWARD in 2013 returned this year with his commission 'Standing on the Verge', a ceremonial gathering of his sculptures inspired by his own experience and interest in the city of Stoke-on-Trent, Neolithic cultures and the original Spode factory site itself, demonstrating the impact the AWARD prize can make to a ceramic artists work.

For more information on BCB 2015 and AWARD visit: [www.britishceramicsbiennial.com](http://www.britishceramicsbiennial.com)

## **Ends**

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **AWARD 2015 selection panel were:**

Alun Graves, Clare Twomey, Emily Johnson, Stephen Feeke, Nao Matsunaga and Barney Hare Duke

### **The 12 artists selected for AWARD 2015 are:**

Amy Hughes, Andrea Walsh, Aneta Regel, Anne Gibbs, Bethan Lloyd Worthington, Caroline Tattersall, Ingrid Murphy with Jon Pigot, James Rigler, Mella Shaw, Paul Scott, Sam Bakewell

### **The 22 artists selected for FRESH 2015 are:**

Alexandra Simpson, Charlotte Barker, Claire Mace, Claudia Wassiczek, Eva Radulova, Gail Mahon, Gemma Dardis, Hannah Tounsend, Hyu-Jin Jo, James Duck, Jongjin Park, Kate Haywood, Katie Schwab, Michael Wild, Michelle Lam, Natalie Wood, Eleanor Orly Edlavitch, Ragna Mouritzen, Rhiannon Lewando, Tana West, Tessa Eastman, Vilas Silverton

### **BCB 2015 exhibiting artists are:**

AirSpace, Amy Hughes, Bruce McLean, Charlotte Hodes, Clay Cargo and associates, Dave Sanderson, Ian McIntyre, Jonathan Keep, Johnny Magee, Kate O'Kelly, Cathy Burke, Eduard Ruane, and Tara Butler-Frey of slip, flux, flock, Lawrence Epps, Matthew Raw, Martin Smith, Michael Eden, Nao Matsunaga, Neil Brownsword, Sarah Worgan, Steve Brown, Stephen Dixon, Tony Quinn

### **Press images:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e97javi6724aznc/AACT\\_bIHlsG7cDz7mOXOr96da?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e97javi6724aznc/AACT_bIHlsG7cDz7mOXOr96da?dl=0)



**About the British Ceramics Biennial:**

The British Ceramics Biennial is a prestigious cultural event taking place in Stoke-on-Trent from 26 September to 8 November 2015. This six-week long festival will present work from the UK's leading contemporary ceramic artists in a series of new exhibitions and special events in the city, embracing the heritage of Stoke-on-Trent as the home of British ceramics, and celebrating the city's creative edge as an international centre for excellence in contemporary ceramics.

The British Ceramics Biennial launched in 2009 as an initial five-year initiative of residencies, fellowships, commissions, education and enterprise projects from 2009 to 2013 with a major festival every two years. BCB is intended to be a catalyst for regeneration in the region and to create a platform for innovation and excellence celebrating the best in current ceramic design, both nationally and internationally.

The Biennial draws on the historical strengths of the past in championing new future directions for the city.

The Biennial works in partnership with organisations and individuals in the museums, cultural, industry, business, education, community and voluntary sectors across the city in the development and delivery of projects with a particular focus on public engagement.

The festival and supporting programmes will not only highlight and raise the profile of the many ceramics industries still working in Stoke-on-Trent, but will also create commissioning and exhibition opportunities for established and emerging ceramic artists locally and internationally.

**The Clay Foundation:**

A new cultural agency and registered charity for Stoke-on-Trent configured into three core components:

- Artists' programme of commissions and residencies, developed in partnership with education culture, industry and community sectors in the city
- British Ceramics Biennial – realising the vision for the 2015 and 2017 festivals
- Ongoing community & education programme

**British Ceramics Biennial funders:**

The British Ceramics Biennial Ltd is funded by Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Arts Council England, Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Heritage Lottery Fund.

**BCB Sponsors:**

Staffordshire University, Johnson Tiles, Potclays

**BCB Partners:**

AirSpace, Appetite, B arts, Brighter Futures, Bucks New University, Contemporary Applied Arts, Craft Potters Association, DB Events, 1882, First, Firstsite, Guldagaard, The Holborne Museum, Homeground, Lifelong Learning Programme, Mitchell Arts Centre, NACHE, North Staffordshire Regiment, Spode Museum Trust, Portraits of Recovery, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Royal College of Art, Sunday Morning at ekwc, University of the



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Wienerberger

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