

THE CERAMIC HOUSE

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THE CERAMIC HOUSE is the creation of architectural ceramicist Kay Aplin. It is a pop-up gallery, a residency for artists, a guesthouse and a centre for ongoing research into ceramic and sound art collaborative practice. Usually each year in May, as part of Artists Open Houses during the Brighton Festival, The Ceramic House opens to the public when Kay curates international exhibitions of contemporary ceramic art in the unusual domestic context of this unique house. Sound art events and other exhibitions take place occasionally throughout the year. The Ceramic House first opened in May 2011.

Kay Aplin graduated in 1995 from Chelsea College of Art, in Public Art and Design, specialising in ceramics and glass. For over twenty years, Kay has had a successful career as an architectural ceramist, predominantly creating site-specific commissions for the public realm. She has had many commissions around the UK and internationally, producing a distinct range of public realm art works that have stood the tests of weather and time. Additionally, Kay creates large-scale wall-based ceramic installations for exhibition and by commission.

Phoenix Artspace

Since 2008, Kay has been based in Brighton with a studio at Phoenix Artspace. Phoenix is the largest and longest established artist studio complex in the south east of England, with approximately 130 resident artists in 100 studios. It also has two galleries with ongoing exhibitions, an education programme, regular events and talks. Phoenix is located in Central Brighton close to the North Laine shopping area and Brighton Station.

Kay has a well-equipped ceramics studio with additional glaze and kiln rooms. The ceramics facility is located in the basement of the building. The rooms are heated by electric heaters and have communal wi-fi facilities. The studios are accessible 24 hours. At present there are no lift facilities in the building and the studio is not wheelchair accessible. Kay has been working with volunteers and work placement students in her studio since 2009.



What will participants gain from undertaking a placement?

Participants benefit from informal instruction in assisting Kay in all aspects involved in running a private ceramics business and studio. This includes all techniques and processes involved in producing and installing architectural ceramics in urban and interior settings and realising large-scale sculptural installations (wall/floor pieces, free-standing sculpture, temporary/permanent installations, site-specific projects).

Materials include: stoneware clay, porcelain, mosaic, concrete, plaster, flexible moulds. Clay processes and techniques include: modelling, carving, painting, surface decoration, slip-casting, tile-making, slab-rolling, press-moulding, plaster casting, mould-making, underglazing, glazing, firing, using kilns, recycling clay, preparing clay and glaze materials.

Additional activities may include: preparation for exhibitions (handling ceramic artwork, hanging, interpretation, interfacing with the public), helping run events (performance nights, private views, shows and fairs), assisting with photo/video documentation, assisting with PR/marketing, graphic design, social networking, event management, curating and invigilating.

Desirable qualities in applicants include: initiative, independence, motivation, teamwork skills, adaptability and good communication skills.



Ceramics Studio - 28 sq m approx:

Facilities include:

Top loading kiln, Slab roller

Extruder, Pug mill

Glaze mixer

Electrical hand working tools

Sink

Glaze / plaster room:

Spray booth

Compressor

Kiln room:

3 front-loading electric kilns

plus Raku kiln





Work placement opportunities range from a regular commitment of one day per week, through to full time placements (35 hours per week) over a concentrated period of time working on specific projects.

For volunteers, local travel costs may be covered by arrangement. Work placement students are responsible for their own travel and daily expenses as part the programme they are participating in. Refreshments (tea/coffee) provided. Accommodation is not provided although Kay may be able to assist in seeking appropriate accommodation for successful applicants.

To apply, please contact Kay with an expression of interest regarding your availability and to discuss options. Please send CV, images of work and a covering letter outlining your interest in this opportunity.

Email kay@theceramichouse.co.uk for more details or to submit an an expression of interest.