

## **OPEN CALL TO ARTISTS/POTTERS**

Leach 100  
Celebrating a Centenary of Inspiration & Exchange

**To celebrate its centenary, the Leach Pottery is offering a number of artist commissions**

**This call is for 3 commissions ranging in value from £5,750 to £11,500.**

In 1920 Bernard Leach and Shoji Hamada collaborated to establish a pottery studio that forged new connections across countries and traditions, broke fresh ground and repositioned the importance of pottery in our culture. A century later, their project is still going strong and the values and passion the two men brought to the art form remain at the heart of the Leach Pottery today.

Over the century the Leach Pottery has enjoyed an influence on Studio Pottery, across the world, that far exceeds its tiny site in the westernmost corner of the UK. International exchange, evolution, innovation, creativity, empathy for place, materials and process, alongside the highest levels of skill, knowledge and craftsmanship, have been core to this influence.

**Now we are offering artist/potters the opportunity to help us celebrate these values and explore how pottery and ceramics have a vital and illuminating role to play in our contemporary world.**

We wish to commission:

- an individual established artist/potter. Fee: £11,500 inclusive of materials, travel and any other fees
- two individual emerging artists/potters. Fee: £5,750 each, inclusive of materials, travel and any other fees. The Leach Pottery has a keen interest in developing talent, and if appropriate we would look to provide a professional mentor to help develop your practice.

A further commission will be advertised shortly:

- An artist/potter or arts company to work with the community in St Ives, Cornwall, to develop a piece of art to nurture creative talent and engagement, and to help grow awareness of the role of the Leach Pottery to a wider audience in the town, both local and visitors. The outcome may be a permanent or temporary piece of public art, incorporating some clay-based elements. Fee: £20,000 inclusive of materials,

travel and any other fees. **Further details on this commission will be issued and we will run this commissioning process separately.**

All fees are inclusive of VAT if chargeable.

**At this stage we are looking for proposals for the established artist/potter commission and the two emerging artist/potter commissions.**

## **The Brief**

We want the commissioned programme as a whole to support:

- talent development opportunities for practitioners
- a diverse range of creative/imaginative work from artists/potters across the world
- work of a quality appropriate for high profile exhibitions
- access to the widest possible audience(s)
- opportunities to actively introduce the Leach Pottery to new audiences
- the Leach Pottery as a leader in the world of contemporary pottery and ceramics through engagement with the breadth and depth of its legacy and contemporary activities.

We plan to use the Leach 100 celebrations as an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved in studio pottery and creativity in the last 100 years, and imagine where this could go, and what the role for pottery and studio practice could be in the future. This is an invitation to exercise artistic freedom and develop a body of work which relates to the Leach Pottery Centenary and also looks forward.

We invite proposals from a wide range of practitioners: potters, ceramicists and mixed media artists interested in clay, pottery, and ceramics. The defining feature, however, is that **all pieces of work must include a clay-based element that is fired**. Clay work can be hand-built or thrown.

Commissioned artists will be invited to undertake a body of research, create a body of work and present their final pieces for potential display at the Leach Pottery followed by the opportunity for the work to be available for selection for a joint Leach Pottery/Crafts Council exhibition in London in November 2020.

## ***Creative Themes***

We are interested in the following themes:

- The Leach Pottery as a place of radical experimentation
- The Leach Pottery 'aesthetic' – a response
- Place and landscape in making.

### ***Eligibility***

Applicants are expected to have either a professional grounding and/or be self-sufficient in their practice. Definitions of 'emerging' and 'established' are fluid and we invite applicants to self-identify, but we take as a rough guideline that established artists will have had a solo show at a major gallery, or a number of public or corporate commissions, or been purchased for a public or corporate collection or similar (this is not an exhaustive list).

- You must demonstrate a level of experience in practice that matches the commission, either as established or emerging artist/potter
- You can be based anywhere in the world: the Leach Pottery's tradition means that we are actively looking to develop our international diaspora of contacts
- You must have an operational command of English, so that you can give public talks and hold discussions in order to gain the most from the commission. If English is not your first language we will need some evidence that your spoken English is at this level
- You **cannot** submit a proposal if you are a member of Leach Pottery staff
- For artists who wish to work at the Leach Pottery site, there are separate Leach 100 International Open Call Residency opportunities.

### ***Legal ownership***

The commissions are offered to support talent and help raise the profile of the Leach Pottery and the value of pottery generally. The outcomes of the commissions should therefore be available for public exhibition under the auspices of the Leach 100 Centenary programme.

The artist/potter will, however, retain ownership of the physical outcomes and any sales made, where applicable, will be via the Leach Pottery on a SOR 50% commission basis during the centenary programme which currently extends into 2021.

The intellectual property will remain with the artist/ potter.

### ***Timetable***

- Deadline for submissions: 10 April 2020
- Selection of commissioned artists: by end April 2020
- Development phase: May – September 2020. A process of regular review and documentation between the artist and the Leach Pottery will be agreed at the contracting stage
- Delivery of final work (if selected): 14 September 2020. The fee is to include shipment of the work to the Leach Pottery in September. The Leach Pottery will cover fees to return the work when the commission and exhibitions are finished.

## Applying for a commission

If you would like to apply as an established practitioner for the £11,500 commission or as an emerging potter/artist for one of the two £5,750 commissions, **please complete the attached Application Form and submit by email. Deadline 10 April 2020**

The Cornish arts programme FEAST, is supporting the commissioning process. Please email your submission to FEAST Director [rose@creativekernow.org.uk](mailto:rose@creativekernow.org.uk) by **midnight on 10 April 2020. Please mark your email LEACH 100 PROPOSAL**. Expect to receive an email acknowledging receipt of your submission.

Selection will be made on the basis of the submitted proposals. The panel will comprise the Leach Pottery Lead Potter and Curator plus independent experts in the field of ceramics and the arts. You will be notified of the outcome by 30 April 2020.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the process, please email [rose@creativekernow.org.uk](mailto:rose@creativekernow.org.uk) or phone the FEAST office 01209 312502.

