

MY SUSSEX

TESSA WOLFE MURRAY

Tessa Wolfe Murray is a ceramicist, from Hove, whose stunning work is inspired by the wildness of the Sussex coast

WORDS BY LOUISE HOWESON

She studied Fine Art at Ravensbourne College of Art followed by a postgraduate course in Ceramics at Goldsmiths College.

During her career Tessa has exhibited all over the world and collaborations include designing and making ranges of vases and lamp-bases for the Conran Shop. Tessa is set to take part in the May Festival Artists Open Houses festival.

She will be exhibiting at "Art in Bloom" 27 Wilbury Avenue, BN3 6HS all weekends in May, visit aoh.org.uk. Her work is sold at the Sussex Guild Shop, Southover Road, Lewes. wolfemurrayceramics.co.uk

What are you working on at the moment?

I am adding to my "one off vessels" collection. The vessels Journey and Westerly are inspired by Pevensey Level grass fringed lanes. I cycle my bike there and the work reflects the way I'm pushed over by the wind. The coast inspires me. After a storm the sea churns up the chalk and becomes a glassy grey green which inspired my Stormcalm vessels. I also take things from the natural environment, like grass, and impress it into the clay.



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You developed your own smoke firing technique. How did that come about?

I came up with a sawdust firing technique that enabled me to decorate high fired glazed pots.

The traditional method of burying a low unfired pot in sawdust underground or in a container and leaving it to burn slowly for between eight and 24 hours did not suit the pots I wanted to make. I wanted my pots to be glazed internally so they could hold water and act as functional containers.

Has your style evolved over time?

I planned on using a pottery wheel but I

had a problem with my wrist and so my work is slab built, slab-built, which means I assemble the clay in sections and stick it together. My work would be completely different at the wheel, I prefer it how it is.

Where has your work taken you?

I have sold my work at trade fairs in New York and at international ceramic fairs in Europe.

I was invited to be a visiting artist at the annual International Ceramics Symposium at the Tel Hai College in Israel and my work is sold all over the world. I love my job, I'm very lucky.

