



## British Studio Pottery in the 1960s and 1970s

This selection of studio pottery which forms part of the Warwick University art collection was originally purchased by the Coventry College of Education before its merger with the University in 1978. Its purpose was to form a teaching resource for students training to become art and design specialists in primary and secondary schools. It was created by Richard Dunning who taught pottery at the College from 1949 to 1977.



During the first half of the twentieth century there was a vigorous revival in the traditional craft of pottery inspired by Bernard Leach (1867-1979) who developed an aesthetic incorporating oriental influences. The qualities he sought in his work were harmony and wholeness and he believed that utility was the first principle of beauty. Numerous 'artist-potters' emerged producing functional vessels of unique design as an alternative to the uniformity of mass-production.

The Winchcombe Pottery, established in 1926 by Michael Cardew who had been Leach's first apprentice, set out to revive the country pottery tradition producing plain but beautifully made everyday tableware. The collection contains work by other former students of Leach: his son David Leach, Harry Davis, William Marshall, Richard Batterham, and Gwyn Piggott Hanssen. The indirect influence of Leach's philosophy and working practice



was felt by generations of potters and can be traced here in the work of Emmanuel Cooper, Mike Dodd and Colin Pearson.



For some studio potters function became subservient to purely aesthetic or expressive objectives. Many believed that ceramics should be regarded as an art form on a par with painting and sculpture and while the

vessel continued to provide the basic form, they exploited sculptural and decorative possibilities, rather than utility. Prominent among them were Lucie Rie and Hans Coper



who introduced a flavour of European modernism while other potters exploring sculptural possibilities of form and texture include Joanna Constantinidis, Derek Davis and William Ruscoe.

1. Jug by Winchcombe Pottery
2. Footed Bowl by Emmanuel Cooper
3. Spade-shaped vessel by Hans Coper
4. Tall Bottle by Joanna Constantinidis

The University Collection of over 800 items is on display in the buildings and landscape of the University campus. You can look at images and find out where they are by visiting the Art Collection website <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/art>. To ensure the works you wish to see are available on the day of your visit, contact the Curator or Curatorial Assistant in advance at the gallery office on 024765 22589 or email [E.A.Dooley@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:E.A.Dooley@warwick.ac.uk)

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