

# VESSEL GALLERY

## LONDON



**Jo Taylor (United Kingdom 1970 - )**

### **Gyratory II**

'Gyratory II' is a unique ceramic sculptural vessel by the British artist, Jo Taylor.

In the artist's own words:

"Gyratory means moving in a circle or spiral, which relates to the shapes within the decorative additions and the 360° journey around of each work.

Created with the challenge of scaling up, this series enables a larger surface on which to create intricate ornamental compositions.

Throwing each section of the underlying structure was physically challenging; all of the elements were made in the home studio & transported at leather hard to Wiltshire Ceramics studio where they were assembled on a kiln shelf before loaded into their larger kiln. This process took weeks for each piece to be completed, before being fettled, slowly dried and loaded with extreme care.

Further drying was carried out in the kiln due to the damp weather and the chilly studio being an old dairy building on a farm. One work collapsed at the making stage; the learning curve was steep.

These works are made from White St Thomas clay, fired to a stoneware temperature in order to vitrify

the clay & make it waterproof, whilst also capturing a weatherworn stone-like appearance. They remain unglazed to allow a clear view of the intricacies of the decorative elements and the natural, neutral colour & surface of the clay. Post firing, these take on an architectural presence."

With grateful thanks for the support of Wiltshire Ceramics Studio & Oppenheim John Downes Trust.

The artist can also create pieces to commission, please contact the gallery for further information.

### **Artist description:**

Taylor's inspiration comes from highly decorative architectural features such as ornate plaster ceilings, wrought iron and carved stone. Living near the Georgian city of Bath provides a rich visual resource, although it can be said that she will seek out such details wherever she goes.

Regular visits to our larger cities such as Liverpool and London offer ornament that can be experienced on a grander scale with their historic buildings such as the Sefton Park Palm House and the V&A holding many further examples. Further afield the architecture of Gaudi in Barcelona, the palaces of Potsdam and the Villa D'Este in Tivoli have all provided inspiration.

In her own words:

"I enjoy the grand gesture present in large scale relief, the drama of deep shadow, the dialogue between space, structure & ornament. The changing light conditions of bright sunlight, a dull day, dusk or artificial light, can affect the contrast and way the structure is perceived.

My recent works have taken inspiration from the Rococo period, which was a unique point in history when artisans were allowed unprecedented artistic freedom; working against the formal rules of proportion and symmetry, where the decorative eclipsed the primary structure.

Piranesi's Candelabrum Series is another source of inspiration. His constructions combined diverse ancient fragments to create new work, he believed in the freedom of designers to draw from a variety of sources to enrich their invention."

This idea of 'freedom of creativity' is central to Taylor's practice, whilst the works reference the historic, the outcomes are contemporary, combining various techniques (hand building, extrusion, sprigging, throwing on a potter's wheel) to create each unique piece, often in the form of sculptural vessels.

Taylor's work is regularly only fired once and left unglazed, in order for the clay to communicate the marks, textures and surface without hindrance. A range of clays are used from porcelain to rough, grogged bodies, that are sometimes coloured using body stains or with slip applied to the surface. Finished works can be free standing, wall hung or presented as group assembly.

Taylor's current practice has been evolving since graduating from her MA at Bath Spa University in 2012. Since that time she has exhibited widely in the UK and also in Belgium & the US, whilst also featuring in a number of publications including Ceramic Review in the UK & Ceramics Monthly in the US.