

Craft 2026

Craft 2026 is an exhibition of contemporary craft with ceramics, glass textiles and metal work from established professionals and emerging creatives from the UK, Europe, North America, Africa and East Asia as well as our annual exhibition of DMU Design Craft second year student work

Exhibitions and events run from **29th May – 19th June 2026**

Find out more [@lcbdepot](https://www.instagram.com/lcbdepot) or at lcbdepot.co.uk/event/craft2026/



Languish

Katie Smith

Katie Smith makes ceramic vessels inspired by maximalism, folk crafts, the human body and our relationship to nature. She creates precarious, organic-looking forms that reflect both her physical and emotional experiences as well as material-maker interactions.

Responding intuitively to clay, Katie captures movement and organic shapes within her vessel forms. She leaves the coils visible from her hand-building process, creating folds and dimples that personify the forms. Gestural marks within the surfaces are inspired by her large-scale paintings. These reference

textures in nature, the movement of her body and mimic 'imperfections' within skin. Her struggles with anxiety inevitably influence her work, as emotional and material knowledge merge through touch.

The resulting vessels appear simultaneously fragile and strong. With the deliberately exposed finger marks and holes transforming solid clay into vulnerable yet enduring forms. The vessel's seemingly precarious nature contrasts with their rigid ceramic structure.

Artist Bio

I graduated from BA Decorative Arts at Nottingham Trent University in 2021, before completing an MA in Designer Maker at UAL Camberwell College of Arts in 2023.

I am an emerging ceramic artist, now practicing for 3 years after graduating from my BA Decorative Arts at Nottingham Trent University in 2021, then MA Designer Maker at UAL Camberwell College of Arts in 2023. I balance my creative practice alongside my role as an art technician, where I work with pupils aged 7–13. In this role, I deliver ceramic workshops and support material-led learning, which has strongly informed my interest in accessible, process-driven teaching.

My practice focuses on the creation of ceramic vessels, using a research-through-practice approach to hand-build precarious organic-looking forms. Concepts of maximalism and ornate surfaces are central to my works, inspired by folk crafts, the human body, and our relationship to the world. Additionally, my personal relationship with her mind and body are reflected within my forms and her surface textures, which also take inspiration and details from nature. To create my ceramic forms, I employ tacit knowledge and material exploration to allow the material some autonomy in its final shape. Alongside making, I draw and paint extensively, using these processes to inform both my two-dimensional work and the surface decoration of my ceramics.

Recent career highlights include being a selected exhibiting artist in 'Made in the Middle', which toured venues across the Midlands from January 2025-April 2026. I have also exhibited at London Art Fair (2025–2026) with

Ruup & Form Gallery, London Design Fair (2025), and in exhibitions including 'Le Vase Fleuri' and 'Quiet Assembly'. As well as this, my collection 'The People's Pandemic' has been on permanent display at Nottingham Central Library since 2024. A final highlight includes my invite to attend The Design Guild Dinner in Birmingham with Slancha Gallery and Soho House. I was one of ten invited makers, bringing together some of the city's leading designers, artists, and makers for a celebration of Birmingham's vibrant and diverse creative culture.

[@katiesmith_art](https://www.instagram.com/katiesmith_art)

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