

# 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 **29<sup>th</sup> May – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

Find out more [@lcbdepot](#) or at [lcbdepot.co.uk/event/craft2026/](http://lcbdepot.co.uk/event/craft2026/)



## ***Memory of Place***

Martli Jansen van Rensburg

This collaborative work by Martli Jansen van Rensburg and Kate Shea is based around the theme of place and displacement. Both Martli and Kate have strong connections to their immediate environment. Martli's link to the red rocks which make up the strong colour of the soil 'staining their childhood clothes red from playing outside' contrast the soft forms Kate finds in the trees which she feels strongly connected to. Living on the outskirts of Sherwood Forest the Oak trees hold particular significance.

The contrast between the heat of Petoria and the cool, dampness of Nottinghamshire was also highlighted in initial conversations and swapped images. These contrasting elements are also reflected in the materials the

collaborators work in. Martli working in the hot environment of the hot glass shop and Kate working in cool wet clay.

Martli and Kate decided to 'displace' these objects and share them physically so they could exist in the others environment creating a juxtaposition of materials and forms.

## **Artist Bio**

Martli Jansen van Rensburg (born 1977, Pretoria) is an artist and glassblower based in South Africa. She holds a degree in Fine Arts from Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and received training from glassblowers in Germany, Sweden and UK. She has worked with Orrefors, National Arts Council and lectures part-time at TUT. In 2008, she co-founded Smelt Glass Studio with Mike Hyam, an open access studio and run a mentorship program. Her work has been exhibited internationally including North Lands Creative, Museum of African Design and Wits Origin Centre. Her work is part of the permanent collection in Absa bank, SAB breweries and Absa Capital.

Over the past decade, my art practice has been rooted in the merging of traditional glassblowing techniques with contemporary sculptural forms. This synthesis serves not only as a celebration of age-old craftsmanship but also as a way to explore personal, cultural, and historical narratives through the medium of glass. As a glass artist, the symbiosis between concept and craft is vital. The process of making is not separate from meaning—it is the very foundation upon which the meaning in the artworks is built.

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