Steve Harrison

Forty

11 April - 17 May 2025

Helmet Row, EC1

Modern Art is pleased to present *Forty*, an exhibition of works by Steve Harrison, celebrating four decades of work in ceramics.

The exhibition showcases Harrison's ongoing series *The Loft Pots*. Works from this series are notable for being stored in his attic, after being fired, due to their deeply felt significance to the artist, and the majority have remained there until now. The centrepiece of the exhibition spans forty years of Harrison's production of *The Loft Pots*, with each year being represented by at least one work. This includes work from his time as a student up to the present day, with a new piece created especially for this occasion. Alongside this, Harrison has selected a range of objects including mugs, teapots, beakers, jars and tea sets from across his career. This represents the most significant presentation of his archive to date, many of these objects, having never been seen before. Considered as a whole, this selection reflects the depth and range of his concerns, techniques, and recurring motifs, as well as the evolution of his formal mastery.

Harrison's ceramics are made using ancient techniques, such as throwing and press moulding stoneware and porcelain clay. Firing his work in a salt kiln in Wales that he built himself produces the distinctive orange peel patination that makes his work so distinct. As with all processes that rely on a capricious element, Harrison can never know what the final fired work will look like. Each pot is not only handmade but reliant on the variable conditions of its making, from the age of the kiln when it's fired, to the amount of salt in the kiln, and crucially the shape and form Harrison has bestowed it. Harrison's ceramic and porcelain work is immediately recognisable for being extremely fine, but contrary to the idea that his work should be protected because of this, it's integral to Harrison that their purpose is for use.

Steve Harrison was born in 1967 in Newcastle upon Tyne and lives and works in London, conducting salt glaze firings from a studio in Powys, Wales. He received his BA from Middlesex Polytechnic, London (1991) and completed his MA at the Royal College of Art, London (1993). Between 1994–2014 Harrison was a lecturer in ceramics at institutions including Camberwell College of Arts and The University of Manchester. His work has been the subject of numerous presentations across the United Kingdom and East Asia including: Art Collaboration, The Shophouse, Kyoto; Pan's Dance, Seoul (both 2024); The Shophouse, Hong Kong (2024, 2023); Blue Mountain School, London (2022, 2021, 2019); Arts & Science, Tokyo (2023, 2019); and Globe-Trotter, London (2018). His works are in public collections including Nottingham Museum and Leicester Museum and Art Gallery.

For more information, please contact Pascale de Graaf (pascale@modernart.net).

Reception



Carrel Box, 2023-2024 white stoneware, white porcelain, black porcelain, reduction salt fired, with various slips, various lustre, electric fired, oak (MA-HARRS-00232)

Gallery 1



Untitled, 1985 porcelain, electric fired with copper glaze, cane handle (MA-HARRS-00001)



Untitled, 1987 stoneware, reduction fired with copper glaze (MA-HARRS-00002)



Untitled, 1988 white stoneware clay, Raku fired, lead glaze, brass wire handle (MA-HARRS-00003)



Untitled, 1989 white stoneware, reduction fired with barium glaze (MA-HARRS-00004)



Untitled, 1990 bronze cast jug (MA-HARRS-00005)



Untitled, 1991 white stoneware, reduction fired with blue glaze, silver handle (MA-HARRS-00006)



Untitled, 1991 white stoneware, reduction fired with celadon glaze (MA-HARRS-00007)



Jug with Articulated Spout, 1992 red stoneware, electric fired with terra sigillata slip (MA-HARRS-00008)



Untitled, 1993 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with brown slip (MA-HARRS-00009)



Untitled, 1994 white stoneware, reduction fired salt fired with black slip (MA-HARRS-00010)



Untitled, 1995
white stoneware, reduction fired salt fired with
black slip and black rosewood handle, silver
mount
(MA-HARRS-00011)



Untitled, 1996 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00012)



Untitled, 1997 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with white slip, silver mount on rim (MA-HARRS-00013)



Persian Blue Teapot, 1998 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00014)



Untitled, 1999 white stoneware bowl, porcelain flowers, reduction salt fired with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00015)



Jar with wing nut, 2000 white earthenware, electric fired with lead glaze, salt glaze wing nut with silver pin (MA-HARRS-00016)



Bowl with Creamware Knobs, 2001 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with blue slip, white earthenware knob and silver pins (MA-HARRS-00017)



Untitled, 2002 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with white slip, earthenware knob (MA-HARRS-00018)



Don't shoot. It's a teapot, 2003 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with black slip, handmade walnut box, base lined (MA-HARRS-00233)



Georgian Jug, 2004 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00020)

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Untitled, 2005 porcelain jug with blue stoneware handle, reduction salt fired (MA-HARRS-00021)



Untitled, 2016 white stoneware, brown stoneware attachments, reduction salt fired (MA-HARRS-00032)



Untitled, 2006 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with brown slip (MA-HARRS-00022)



Untitled, 2017 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with green slip (MA-HARRS-00033)



A Tear for Vincent, 2007 white porcelain, brown reduction salt glaze handle and knob, solid gold tip (MA-HARRS-00023)



Sunflower Bowl, 2018 white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with turquoise glaze (MA-HARRS-00034)



Untitled, 2008 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with brown barium slip (MA-HARRS-00024)



Travelling with Tea, 2019 white stoneware, porcelain handle, reduction salt fired with black slip, lacquered case (MA-HARRS-00035)



Untitled, 2009 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with grey slip, gold chain and thumb stop (MA-HARRS-00025)



Curated 11 (no. 1), 2020 white stoneware, porcelain flower, reduction salt fired with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00036)



Still Life, 2010 white stoneware, salt fired with blue slip, burr oak tray, Chinese tea bowl (MA-HARRS-00026)



Age of the Beaker, 2021 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with beige slip (MA-HARRS-00037)



Dancing with Degas, 2011 white stoneware, porcelain knob, reduction salt fired with beige and blue slip (MA-HARRS-00027)



Untitled, 2022 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with green slip (MA-HARRS-00038)



20 Teapots, 2012 white porcelain, reduction salt fired with blue slip, silver tea leaf (MA-HARRS-00028)



Untitled, 2023 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with dark blue slip, ash (MA-HARRS-00039)



Untitled, 2013 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with brown slip (MA-HARRS-00029)



Untitled, 2024 white porcelain, reduction salt fired with dark blue slip, ash (MA-HARRS-00040)



Bowl with Knobs, 2014 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with dark blue slip (MA-HARRS-00030)



Carrel Box, 2025 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with various slips, antique silver fittings and white porcelain knobs, black walnut (MA-HARRS-00261)



Cup Board, 2015 white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with ash glaze, lacquered European Chestnut (MA-HARRS-00031)

Gallery 2



Blue Jug with Frog Eye Spout, 2002 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00059)



Bloater Tea Jar, 2003 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with dark blue slip (MA-HARRS-00164)



White Tea Pot with Blue Medallion white porcelain, iron stoneware details, reduction salt fired, with yellow and blue slip (MA-HARRS-00077)



Beak Bowl white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00087)



White Jug with Frog Eye Spout, 2002 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with white and blue slip (MA-HARRS-00058)



Blue Jug with Beak, 2005 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00057)



A Tear for Vincent Narrow Lidded Jar, 2010 white porcelain, iron stoneware details, reduction salt fired with brown slip (MA-HARRS-00071)



Flat Tea Bowl, 2013 white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with no slip (MA-HARRS-00162)



Yellow Sunflower Bowl, 2007 white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with yellow slip (MA-HARRS-00120)



Large Green Tea Pot, 2002 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00131)



Sunflower on Bronze Stem, 2015 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with variegated slip, bronze pin and stem (MA-HARRS-00047)



Blue Tea Pot C Handle, 2008 white porcelain, iron stoneware details, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00078)



Brown Tea Bowl White Stamp, 2023 iron stoneware, reduction salt fired, with brown slip (MA-HARRS-00218)



Hand Held Brown Jug Half Beaded Spout, 2021 white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with brown slip (MA-HARRS-00098)



Brown Jug with Frog Eye, 2002 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with brown and blue slip (MA-HARRS-00092)



Green Domed Lidded Jar, 2000 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00069)



A Tear for Vincent Dark Blue Sunflower Vase, 2017 white stoneware, porcelain flower and tear, reduction salt fired, with blue and green slip (MA-HARRS-00055)



Cup Board - 7 Cups, 2014 white porcelain, white stoneware handle, reduction salt fired, yellow iron and brown slip, European black lacquer chestnut cup board (MA-HARRS-00231)



Mince Pie Bowl With Knobs, 1997 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue and black slip (MA-HARRS-00084)



Flat Green Bowl with Knobs, 2014 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with green slip (MA-HARRS-00085)



Blue Bowl, 2022 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00122)

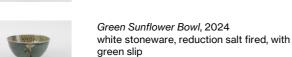


Picasso Dark Brown Vase, 2016 white stoneware with porcelain sunflowers, reduction salt fired with brown slip (MA-HARRS-00048)

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White Bowl Sprig Flower, 2004 white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with yellow and blue slip (MA-HARRS-00114)



(MA-HARRS-00112)



Large Green Bloater Jug Fluted Spout, 2000 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with green slip (MA-HARRS-00130)



White Tea Bowl Brown Sunflower white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with yellow iron slip (MA-HARRS-00141)



Rose Gold Leaf Black Tea Jar, 2013 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with black slip, rose gold gilded silver leaf (MA-HARRS-00161)



Blue Sunflower Bowl Sprig Flowers, 2011 iron stoneware, white porcelain details, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00121)



Carrel Box, 2025 white stoneware, white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with various slips, English walnut and ash (MA-HARRS-00265)



Hand Held Blue Jug Beaded Spout, 2008 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00099)



Large Blue Frog Eye Jug, 2002 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with dark blue slip (MA-HARRS-00235)



The Age of the Beaker Bue, 2021 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00222)



Bowl with Sprig Sunflower iron stoneware, white porcelain flower, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00063)



Bright Blue Jug with Beaded Spout, 2010 white Porcelain, reduction salt fired, with blue and brown slip (MA-HARRS-00061)



Bright Blue Bowl Sprig Flowers, 2009 white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with iron and blue slip (MA-HARRS-00116)



Unglazed Red Tea Jar, 2005 red stoneware, electric fired, with no slip (MA-HARRS-00132)



20 Tea Pots Green Tea Bowl, 2012 iron stoneware, reduction salt fired with dark green slip (MA-HARRS-00065)



Picasso Tea Pot, 2016 white stoneware, white porcelain flower, reduction salt fired with black slip (MA-HARRS-00081)



Still Life, 2010 white porcelain, white stoneware handles, reduction salt fired, with blue slip, silver tea strainer, oak burr tray with stoneware feet (MA-HARRS-00152)



Cup Board - 1 Cup, 2014 white porcelain, white stoneware handle, reduction salt fired, with yellow iron and brown slip, European red lacquer chestnut cup board (MA-HARRS-00229)



Brown Jug Beaded Spout, 2004 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with brown and blue slip (MA-HARRS-00056)



Grey Sunflower Bowl, 2018 white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with grey slip (MA-HARRS-00124)



Big Blue/White Sunflower Vase, 2009 white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00041)



Carrel Box, 2009–2024 white stoneware, white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with various slips, various lustre, electric fired, oak burr (MA-HARRS-00262)

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Large Raku Iron Handle Jug, 1991 white grogged stoneware, raku gas fired, white lead glaze, iron handle (MA-HARRS-00260)



Blue Tea Pot Silver mounted handle and Fluted Knob, 2008 white stoneware, white porcelain handle and knob, reduction salt fired, with blue slip, silver (MA-HARRS-00153)



Spider Leg Tea Pot iron stoneware, reduction salt fired, with brown slip, spider leg gilded bronze, bur oak (MA-HARRS-00160)



Blue Frilly Tea Pot, 2024 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00163)



Unglazed Red Tea Pot, 2005 red stoneware, electric fired, with no slip (MA-HARRS-00133)



Blue Bowl White Sunflower, 2010 iron stoneware, white porcelain details, reduction salt fired, with yellow and blue slip (MA-HARRS-00115)



Green Tea Pot with Silver Mounted Box Wood Handle, 2001 white stoneware, box wood handle and knob, reduction salt fired, with green slip, silver (MA-HARRS-00154)



Yellow Flat Jug, 2011 white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with yellow iron slip (MA-HARRS-00093)



Hand Held White Jug, 2006 white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with barium slip (MA-HARRS-00097)



Big Bloater Blue Lidded Jar, 2001 white stoneware, reduction salt fired with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00067)



The Age of the Beaker Blue, 2022 white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00227)



Bird Box, 2025 white stoneware, white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with various slips, oak burr (MA-HARRS-00266)



Blue Beaker With Foot iron stoneware, white porcelain details, reduction salt fired, with blue slip (MA-HARRS-00126)

Viewing Room



Carrel Box, 2003–2024 white stoneware, iron stoneware, white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with various slips, American black walnut (MA-HARRS-00264)





Carrel Box, 2003–2023 white stoneware, iron stoneware, white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with various slips, ash (MA-HARRS-00263)