

Dean Coates CV and Bio

Dean's practice sits between painting and ceramics. Taking the concept of the ceramic studio test tile, (a traditional small clay tile used to test glazes), he makes sculptural slabs of clay creating an expansive surface onto which he applies multiple layers of glazes, slips, oxides, studio waste, rocks, and sand. The pieces are fired in the kiln where the materials interact creating unpredictable and unexpected results. The process can be repeated several times enriching the surface with colour, texture and form until there is what he refers to as an intuitive resolution in the work.

He sees his work as metaphors of geological processes where rocks and minerals are subjected to heat and chemical changes. The kiln and materials play an important role in the physicality of final pieces. It is the continuous investigation of studio materials and their alchemical interactions that is the driver in his work.

Dean Coates holds a BSc in Geology and a MA Ceramics from Cardiff Metropolitan University. He lives and works in Bristol in the UK.

Education

MA Ceramics Cardiff Metropolitan University
PGCE Bath Spa University
BSC Hons Earth Sciences Oxford Brookes University

Exhibitions

2025

Visual Language Vistas, Subliminal Gallery, LA, US
Irving Gallery Open Competition, Oxford, UK

2024

Close, That Art Gallery, Bristol, UK
In the Windows, That Art Gallery, Bristol. UK
BV Studios Open, BV Studios, Bristol. UK

2023

Still and Still Moving, OD Festival, Somerset. UK
Keramos, Cabanamad, Lisbon. Portugal
Mixed Exhibition, Vasto Gallery, Barcelona. Spain
BV Studios Open, BV Studios, Bristol. UK

2020

Creative Distancing, Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christie. US

2019

Lets Talk About the Anthropocene, Grande Parade Gallery, Brighton. UK
BV Studios Open, BV Studios, Bristol. UK
Spaces Reimagined, KOSAR Gallery, Bristol. UK
BV Studios Open, BV Studios, Bristol. UK
Igneous Futures, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Cardiff. UK.
Residencies

2022

Greensand Residency Wiltshire with Found Outdoors
Teaching
Bath Spa University

Collections

Manchester Metropolitan University Special Collection