

# □ Cube Gallery

## AN INTERVIEW WITH KATE BRETT

*Kate Brett* is mix-media artist based in London, UK. Here, Kate discusses her intuitive approach to designing each porcelain piece, her innovative Bento box series inspired by Japanese craftsmanship, and how her international residencies have shaped her 3D aesthetic.

**CG** How have your studies in 3D design and fine art influenced your creative journey?

**KB** I have enjoyed the expression and energy within a lot of art pieces and the formal aspect of good design. I try to combine both features in the work I produce.

**CG** Can you explain the concept behind your Bento box series and what inspired it?

**KB** The Bento boxes were a project that I developed after a residency in Shigaraki. I was fascinated by the craftsmanship of the packaging in Japan. The box is almost as important as the object inside it.

**CG** Could you walk us through your process for creating each piece, particularly how you decide on the combination of various porcelain forms, shapes, and sizes in your designs?

**KB** I work intuitively and in batches. I will throw each piece quickly, embracing the wobbles and deliberately emphasising them to create movement within a static form.





CG What draws you to porcelain as your primary medium?

KB Porcelain has a purity that no other clay has-the colour, texture and the fact that it almost has a life of its own makes it both a challenge and a pleasure to work with.

CG What inspires the intricate designs on your porcelain pieces, and how do you decide on the motifs and patterns you use?

KB I play with pattern, nothing is planned or precious about the approach. I really enjoy the experimental aspect of decoration and mixing printmaking with mark making. I am however, quite discerning about which pieces I choose to show.



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**CG** How have your residencies in Berlin, Sydney, and especially Japan, influenced the aesthetic choices of your ceramics?

**KB** Residencies always bring the luxury of being able to concentrate 100% on developing ones practice without the minutiae of everyday life. I have visited Japan several times and have an ongoing fascination with the unique culture and craftsmanship. Most of the work produced for the Cube Gallery is a homage to Japan.

**CG** How has your artistic practice evolved over the years?

**KB** I supplied Liberty in London with ceramic products made in a studio in Old Street for 15 years. I felt that it got to a point that I would have to expand or develop something new. After an MA at UAL I combined both art and design and have produced art pieces ever since.

**CG** As a Fine Art tutor at MPW College, how has teaching influenced your own artistic practice, and do you find that it brings new perspectives to your work?

**KB** I have worked as a part time tutor at MPW since leaving college. The college has changed over the years and is now much more multicultural. It has become a richer and more interesting environment, the energy and outlook of the students is a constant inspiration.

**CG** Are you interested in exploring other themes and styles in your work for future projects?

**KB** I have just spent a month in Greece and produced some new work based on the landscape - watch this space!







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