

An English Artist

In the hills above the beautiful spa town of Bagni di Lucca, there is a pink house overlooking the valley where ceramicist Carol Newmarch is busy weaving her dreams of a health and creativity retreat centre.

A regular visitor to this area since her first visit as an art student in the early 1980's, in the footsteps of many well known and lesser known artists, poets and creatives, Carol now divides her time between her native North East England and her home here in Tuscany. Looking back it seems natural to Carol that she should find herself living in Italy at least part of the time. Born in Middlesbrough which is situated between two notable Roman archaeological sites – the city of York and Hadrian's Wall – childhood visits to both places ignited an early fascination with Italian influences on British history. As a student, this interest was nurtured by being employed as 'Romano British' potter in a BBC heritage exhibition leading her into research on Romano British ceramics for her university thesis.

Carol's ceramics continue to draw inspiration from classical forms, and echoes of ancient Roman, Greek and Etruscan art and archaeology were evident this summer when her ceramic vessels were on exhibition as part of the Bagni di Lucca international arts festival. However, her ceramics are contemporary and personal; the range of work on show included grand hand-built bowl forms and small brightly glazed thrown bowls and bottles, a beautiful blue glazed mirror and relief panel.

Carol is particularly interested in firing at low temperatures and uses raku and pit firing techniques to produce individually different pots. These methods are exciting ways to fire, they are hands-on and immediate. Raku technique has been adopted by western potters from its Japanese origins as an integral part of the spiritual tea ceremony. Carol uses white clays to enhance the colour potential of transparent lustrous and bright crackle glazes. Pit firing is the most ancient of techniques and produces beautiful smoked surfaces which Carol burnishes to give a warm sheen. She also makes sculpture and a range of garden ceramics using frost-resistant stoneware and porcelain clays.



Carol is happy to make work to commission, including contemporary figurative sculpture. If you have a particular spot in mind she will visit and work through a design with you that will specifically suit your home or workplace, or make something special as a commemorative piece.

As well as making ceramics, Carol has a wealth of experience teaching pottery to adults and children. For many years she has delivered a range of informal educational experiences for young people using the arts, bringing together artists and community to explore creative experiences. During the summer festival she demonstrated throwing and hand building techniques, and encouraged local and visiting children and adults to try their hand on the potter's wheel.

In addition to ceramics tuition for all levels, in 2014 Carol and her sister Heather will also be offering a range of courses

in Italy



and retreats. Carol is a qualified trainer, leadership and life coach and Heather is a qualified health and fitness coach and yoga instructor. Together they use a mix of creative activities, yoga based exercise, mindfulness and walking. The retreats are personal development opportunities to unlock the creative self, delivered with a holistic approach to personal development using a coaching ethos and an emphasis on fun!

For further information see the website: <http://carolnewmarch.co.uk> or contact carolnewmarchceramics@gmail.com

<< home

Click here to read an article from last month: >>

