



# Jug

Mick Casson

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**Not on display**

**Title/Description:** Jug

**Artist/Maker:** Mick Casson (Artist)

**Born:** 1985

**Object Type:** Vessel

**Materials:** Ceramic, Stoneware

**Technique:** Throwing

**Measurements:** h. 240mm

**Accession Number:** 50731

**Historic Period:** 20th century

**Production Place:** Britain, England

**Copyright:** © Estate of Mick Casson

**Credit Line:** Accepted under the Cultural Gifts Scheme by HM Government from Leslie Birks Hay and allocated to SCVA, 2016

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Michael Casson's work is deeply rooted in function and his forms derive from medieval European pottery. This thrown salt-glaze jug with pulled handle has a discrete pinched spout designed with function in mind. Although perhaps more fragile than a pronounced spout, Casson believes it will pour better. [1] His gestural vertical markings bring an elegance to this robust vernacular form.

Casson's signature form is the thrown jug – a form he continually returned to throughout his career, making six basic variations. For Casson, the jug was both a usable vessel and a vessel with enough design variables to express the personal language of the maker. His approach of uniting functionality and expressiveness, creating both a strong physical and visual connection between the user and object, was, he believed, 'a truly holistic approach to art'. [2]

Casson is a seminal figure in the British post-war studio ceramics movement. He reinvigorated the craft through his teaching and in 1963, together with Victor Margrie and Colin Pearson, he co-founded the first vocational studio pottery course at Harrow School of Art. In 1977 he presented the BBC TV series, *The Craft of the Potter*, which drew large and new audiences to ceramics.

[1] *Michael Casson Pottery Demonstration: The Pouring Lip*, 1980, VHS recording,  
<https://jiseys.wordpress.com/mick-casson-masterclass> [accessed 11/05/20].

[2] Michael Casson, 'Function and Expression', *Studio Potter*, Volume 13 No. 2 (1985), 14-15 (p. 14).

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## Further Reading

Casson, Michael, 'Function and Expression', *Studio Potter*, Volume 13 No. 2 (1985), 14-15

Cooper, Emmanuel, and Amanda Fielding, *Michael Casson*, (Ruthin, Wales: Ruthin Craft Centre, 2010)

*Michael Casson Pottery Demonstration: The Pouring Lip*, 1980, VHS recording,  
<https://jiseys.wordpress.com/mick-casson-masterclass> [accessed 11/05/20]

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