



Bowl

Dan Arbeid

Not on display

Title/Description: Bowl

Artist/Maker: Dan Arbeid (Artist)

Born: 1965 c.

Measurements: H. 420mm

Accession Number: 50716

Historic Period: 20th century

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

This thrown bowl with defined rim and handles was made during the 1960s by Dan Arbeid. The thickness of the clay accentuates the curves of the vessel and a similar shaped form was used by Arbeid as a fruit bowl. [1]

During the 1960s and 1970s, Arbeid's exhibitions focused on different manipulations of clay including coiling, throwing and slab-building (see 50788). [2] He rejected the approach of Bernard Leach and his followers, whose work was guided by the ceramic traditions of Chinese Sung and Tang dynasty pots. He was not alone in this departure. He was one of a group of ceramicists connected to the Central School of Arts and Crafts that were exploring experimental and radical approaches to clay. Others included Gordon Baldwin, Ruth Duckworth and Ian Auld.

Arbeid was a pottery technician at the Central School from 1957 to the mid-1980s and initially worked as a tailor's cutter in London. He was introduced to ceramics in 1956 when he worked in an industrial ceramic factory in Israel. Birks describes a work made by Arbeid during this time as having, 'an astonishing radical and modern approach to form' [3], with surface drawings that referenced artists including Henry Moore and John Piper, demonstrating Arbeid's early ambitions for his work to diverge from the conventions of British studio ceramics.

Sim Panaser, June 2020

[1] Tony, Birks, *Art of the Modern Potter*, (London: Country Life Books, 1976) p. 160.

[2] Ibid., p.158.

[3] Tony Birks, 'Dan Arbeid: A Remembrance', *Ceramics: Art and Perception*, 88 (2012), 104-106, (p. 104).

Further Reading

Birks, Tony, *Art of the Modern Potter* (London: Country Life Books, 1976)

Birks, Tony, 'Dan Arbeid: A Remembrance', *Ceramics: Art and Perception*, 88 (2012), 104-106

Whiting, David, *Dan Arbeid 1928-2010: A Retrospective*, exhibition pamphlet (Bristol: Ken Stradling Trust, 2010)

Harrod, Tanya, *The Crafts in Britain in the 20th Century* (London: Yale University Press, 1999)
