

Steve Harrison

Forty

11 April – 17 May 2025

Helmet Row, EC1

Modern Art is pleased to present *Forty*, an exhibition of works by Steve Harrison, celebrating four decades of work in ceramics.

The exhibition showcases Harrison's ongoing series *The Loft Pots*. Works from this series are notable for being stored in his attic, after being fired, due to their deeply felt significance to the artist, and the majority have remained there until now. The centrepiece of the exhibition spans forty years of Harrison's production of *The Loft Pots*, with each year being represented by at least one work. This includes work from his time as a student up to the present day, with a new piece created especially for this occasion. Alongside this, Harrison has selected a range of objects including mugs, teapots, beakers, jars and tea sets from across his career. This represents the most significant presentation of his archive to date, many of these objects, having never been seen before. Considered as a whole, this selection reflects the depth and range of his concerns, techniques, and recurring motifs, as well as the evolution of his formal mastery.

Harrison's ceramics are made using ancient techniques, such as throwing and press moulding stoneware and porcelain clay. Firing his work in a salt kiln in Wales that he built himself produces the distinctive orange peel patination that makes his work so distinct. As with all processes that rely on a capricious element, Harrison can never know what the final fired work will look like. Each pot is not only handmade but reliant on the variable conditions of its making, from the age of the kiln when it's fired, to the amount of salt in the kiln, and crucially the shape and form Harrison has bestowed it. Harrison's ceramic and porcelain work is immediately recognisable for being extremely fine, but contrary to the idea that his work should be protected because of this, it's integral to Harrison that their purpose is for use.

Steve Harrison was born in 1967 in Newcastle upon Tyne and lives and works in London, conducting salt glaze firings from a studio in Powys, Wales. He received his BA from Middlesex Polytechnic, London (1991) and completed his MA at the Royal College of Art, London (1993). Between 1994–2014 Harrison was a lecturer in ceramics at institutions including Camberwell College of Arts and The University of Manchester. His work has been the subject of numerous presentations across the United Kingdom and East Asia including: Art Collaboration, The Shophouse, Kyoto; Pan's Dance, Seoul (both 2024); The Shophouse, Hong Kong (2024, 2023); Blue Mountain School, London (2022, 2021, 2019); Arts & Science, Tokyo (2023, 2019); and Globe-Trotter, London (2018). His works are in public collections including Nottingham Museum and Leicester Museum and Art Gallery.

For more information, please contact Pascale de Graaf (pascale@modernart.net).

Reception

Carrel Box, 2023-2024
white stoneware, white porcelain, black porcelain, reduction salt fired, with various slips, various lustre, electric fired, oak
(MA-HARRS-00232)

Gallery 1

Untitled, 1985
porcelain, electric fired with copper glaze, cane handle
(MA-HARRS-00001)



Untitled, 1995
white stoneware, reduction fired salt fired with black slip and black rosewood handle, silver mount
(MA-HARRS-00011)



Untitled, 1987
stoneware, reduction fired with copper glaze
(MA-HARRS-00002)



Untitled, 1996
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00012)



Untitled, 1988
white stoneware clay, Raku fired, lead glaze, brass wire handle
(MA-HARRS-00003)



Untitled, 1997
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with white slip, silver mount on rim
(MA-HARRS-00013)



Untitled, 1989
white stoneware, reduction fired with barium glaze
(MA-HARRS-00004)



Persian Blue Teapot, 1998
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00014)



Untitled, 1990
bronze cast jug
(MA-HARRS-00005)



Untitled, 1999
white stoneware bowl, porcelain flowers, reduction salt fired with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00015)



Untitled, 1991
white stoneware, reduction fired with blue glaze, silver handle
(MA-HARRS-00006)



Jar with wing nut, 2000
white earthenware, electric fired with lead glaze, salt glaze wing nut with silver pin
(MA-HARRS-00016)



Untitled, 1991
white stoneware, reduction fired with celadon glaze
(MA-HARRS-00007)



Bowl with Creamware Knobs, 2001
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with blue slip, white earthenware knob and silver pins
(MA-HARRS-00017)



Jug with Articulated Spout, 1992
red stoneware, electric fired with terra sigillata slip
(MA-HARRS-00008)



Untitled, 2002
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with white slip, earthenware knob
(MA-HARRS-00018)



Untitled, 1993
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with brown slip
(MA-HARRS-00009)



Don't shoot. It's a teapot, 2003
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with black slip, handmade walnut box, base lined
(MA-HARRS-00233)



Untitled, 1994
white stoneware, reduction fired salt fired with black slip
(MA-HARRS-00010)



Georgian Jug, 2004
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00020)

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Untitled, 2005
porcelain jug with blue stoneware handle,
reduction salt fired
(MA-HARRS-00021)



Untitled, 2016
white stoneware, brown stoneware attachments,
reduction salt fired
(MA-HARRS-00032)



Untitled, 2006
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with
brown slip
(MA-HARRS-00022)



Untitled, 2017
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with
green slip
(MA-HARRS-00033)



A Tear for Vincent, 2007
white porcelain, brown reduction salt glaze
handle and knob, solid gold tip
(MA-HARRS-00023)



Sunflower Bowl, 2018
white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with
turquoise glaze
(MA-HARRS-00034)



Untitled, 2008
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with
brown barium slip
(MA-HARRS-00024)



Travelling with Tea, 2019
white stoneware, porcelain handle, reduction salt
fired with black slip, lacquered case
(MA-HARRS-00035)



Untitled, 2009
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with
grey slip, gold chain and thumb stop
(MA-HARRS-00025)



Curated 11 (no. 1), 2020
white stoneware, porcelain flower, reduction salt
fired with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00036)



Still Life, 2010
white stoneware, salt fired with blue slip, burr
oak tray, Chinese tea bowl
(MA-HARRS-00026)



Age of the Beaker, 2021
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with beige
slip
(MA-HARRS-00037)



Dancing with Degas, 2011
white stoneware, porcelain knob, reduction
salt fired with beige and blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00027)



Untitled, 2022
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with green
slip
(MA-HARRS-00038)



20 Teapots, 2012
white porcelain, reduction salt fired with blue
slip, silver tea leaf
(MA-HARRS-00028)



Untitled, 2023
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with dark
blue slip, ash
(MA-HARRS-00039)



Untitled, 2013
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with
brown slip
(MA-HARRS-00029)



Untitled, 2024
white porcelain, reduction salt fired with dark
blue slip, ash
(MA-HARRS-00040)



Bowl with Knobs, 2014
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with
dark blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00030)



Carrel Box, 2025
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with various
slips, antique silver fittings and white porcelain
knobs, black walnut
(MA-HARRS-00261)



Cup Board, 2015
white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with ash
glaze, lacquered European Chestnut
(MA-HARRS-00031)

Gallery 2



Blue Jug with Frog Eye Spout, 2002
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00059)



Blue Tea Pot C Handle, 2008
white porcelain, iron stoneware details, reduction salt fired, with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00078)



Bloater Tea Jar, 2003
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with dark blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00164)



Brown Tea Bowl White Stamp, 2023
iron stoneware, reduction salt fired, with brown slip
(MA-HARRS-00218)



White Tea Pot with Blue Medallion, 2002
white porcelain, iron stoneware details, reduction salt fired, with yellow and blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00077)



Hand Held Brown Jug Half Beaded Spout, 2021
white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with brown slip
(MA-HARRS-00098)



Beak Bowl, 2002
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00087)



Brown Jug with Frog Eye, 2002
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with brown and blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00092)



White Jug with Frog Eye Spout, 2002
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with white and blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00058)



Green Domed Lidded Jar, 2000
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00069)



Blue Jug with Beak, 2005
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00057)



A Tear for Vincent Dark Blue Sunflower Vase, 2017
white stoneware, porcelain flower and tear, reduction salt fired, with blue and green slip
(MA-HARRS-00055)



A Tear for Vincent Narrow Lidded Jar, 2010
white porcelain, iron stoneware details, reduction salt fired with brown slip
(MA-HARRS-00071)



Cup Board - 7 Cups, 2014
white porcelain, white stoneware handle, reduction salt fired, yellow iron and brown slip, European black lacquer chestnut cup board
(MA-HARRS-00231)



Flat Tea Bowl, 2013
white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with no slip
(MA-HARRS-00162)



Mince Pie Bowl With Knobs, 1997
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue and black slip
(MA-HARRS-00084)



Yellow Sunflower Bowl, 2007
white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with yellow slip
(MA-HARRS-00120)



Flat Green Bowl with Knobs, 2014
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with green slip
(MA-HARRS-00085)



Large Green Tea Pot, 2002
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00131)



Blue Bowl, 2022
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00122)



Sunflower on Bronze Stem, 2015
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with variegated slip, bronze pin and stem
(MA-HARRS-00047)



Picasso Dark Brown Vase, 2016
white stoneware with porcelain sunflowers, reduction salt fired with brown slip
(MA-HARRS-00048)

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White Bowl Sprig Flower, 2004
white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with yellow and blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00114)



Bright Blue Jug with Beaded Spout, 2010
white Porcelain, reduction salt fired, with blue and brown slip
(MA-HARRS-00061)



Green Sunflower Bowl, 2024
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with green slip
(MA-HARRS-00112)



Bright Blue Bowl Sprig Flowers, 2009
white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with iron and blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00116)



Large Green Bloater Jug Fluted Spout, 2000
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with green slip
(MA-HARRS-00130)



Unglazed Red Tea Jar, 2005
red stoneware, electric fired, with no slip
(MA-HARRS-00132)



White Tea Bowl Brown Sunflower
white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with yellow iron slip
(MA-HARRS-00141)



20 Tea Pots Green Tea Bowl, 2012
iron stoneware, reduction salt fired with dark green slip
(MA-HARRS-00065)



Rose Gold Leaf Black Tea Jar, 2013
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with black slip, rose gold gilded silver leaf
(MA-HARRS-00161)



Picasso Tea Pot, 2016
white stoneware, white porcelain flower, reduction salt fired with black slip
(MA-HARRS-00081)



Blue Sunflower Bowl Sprig Flowers, 2011
iron stoneware, white porcelain details, reduction salt fired, with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00121)



Still Life, 2010
white porcelain, white stoneware handles, reduction salt fired, with blue slip, silver tea strainer, oak burr tray with stoneware feet
(MA-HARRS-00152)



Carrel Box, 2025
white stoneware, white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with various slips, English walnut and ash
(MA-HARRS-00265)



Cup Board - 1 Cup, 2014
white porcelain, white stoneware handle, reduction salt fired, with yellow iron and brown slip, European red lacquer chestnut cup board
(MA-HARRS-00229)



Hand Held Blue Jug Beaded Spout, 2008
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00099)



Brown Jug Beaded Spout, 2004
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with brown and blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00056)



Large Blue Frog Eye Jug, 2002
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with dark blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00235)



Grey Sunflower Bowl, 2018
white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with grey slip
(MA-HARRS-00124)



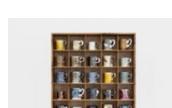
The Age of the Beaker Bue, 2021
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00222)



Big Blue/White Sunflower Vase, 2009
white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00041)



Bowl with Sprig Sunflower
iron stoneware, white porcelain flower, reduction salt fired, with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00063)



Carrel Box, 2009–2024
white stoneware, white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with various slips, various lustre, electric fired, oak burr
(MA-HARRS-00262)

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Large Raku Iron Handle Jug, 1991
white grogged stoneware, raku gas fired,
white lead glaze, iron handle
(MA-HARRS-00260)



Blue Tea Pot Silver mounted handle and Fluted Knob, 2008
white stoneware, white porcelain handle and
knob, reduction salt fired, with blue slip, silver
(MA-HARRS-00153)



Spider Leg Tea Pot
iron stoneware, reduction salt fired, with
brown slip, spider leg gilded bronze, bur oak
(MA-HARRS-00160)



Blue Frilly Tea Pot, 2024
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with blue
slip
(MA-HARRS-00163)



Unglazed Red Tea Pot, 2005
red stoneware, electric fired, with no slip
(MA-HARRS-00133)



Blue Bowl White Sunflower, 2010
iron stoneware, white porcelain details,
reduction salt fired, with yellow and blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00115)



Green Tea Pot with Silver Mounted Box Wood Handle, 2001
white stoneware, box wood handle and knob,
reduction salt fired, with green slip, silver
(MA-HARRS-00154)



Yellow Flat Jug, 2011
white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with yellow
iron slip
(MA-HARRS-00093)



Hand Held White Jug, 2006
white porcelain, reduction salt fired, with
barium slip
(MA-HARRS-00097)



Big Bloater Blue Lidded Jar, 2001
white stoneware, reduction salt fired with blue
slip
(MA-HARRS-00067)



The Age of the Beaker Blue, 2022
white stoneware, reduction salt fired, with
blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00227)



Bird Box, 2025
white stoneware, white porcelain, reduction salt
fired, with various slips, oak burr
(MA-HARRS-00266)



Blue Beaker With Foot
iron stoneware, white porcelain details,
reduction salt fired, with blue slip
(MA-HARRS-00126)

Viewing Room



Carrel Box, 2003–2024
white stoneware, iron stoneware, white
porcelain, reduction salt fired, with various
slips, American black walnut
(MA-HARRS-00264)

Red Table, n.d.
silver on bronze, European lacquer on chestnut
English wood
(MA-HARRS-00267)



Carrel Box, 2003–2023
white stoneware, iron stoneware, white
porcelain, reduction salt fired, with various
slips, ash
(MA-HARRS-00263)