

MIKE BYRNE // JANE SEYMOUR



FORM & SURFACE // NEW CERAMICS

The Kenny Gallery, Galway, May 6 - 31, 2022





**May 6 - 31** | Jane Seymour & Mike Byrne *Form & Surface: New Ceramics*

**Ceramic artists, Jane Seymour and Mike Byrne, come together to exhibit their distinctive hand-built ceramics in the Kenny Gallery, Galway from Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> May.**

Although their backgrounds and training are very different - Jane is a self-taught artist and ceramist, Mike trained in Ceramic Design in Limerick - their work shares a commonality in its use of strong, slab-built, cut and altered sculptural forms, and refined surface treatment.

Mike builds tall abstract vessels, applying layers of different coloured slips, which he sands down to reveal the colours beneath, giving a smooth tactile surface.

Jane textures each piece, etching deeply into the surface of the clay with her drawings, inspired by an interest in the figurative, and uses oxides to colour her work.

Their work has been widely collected and its quality recognised by ceramic organisations both in Ireland and abroad.

**The exhibition 'Form and Surface: New Ceramics', which will be officially opened at Kennys at 6:00pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> May by Rob D'Eath, Potter & Curator, will run Monday to Saturday, 9:00-17:00 until 31<sup>st</sup> May at the Kenny Gallery, Liosbán Retail Park, Tuam Road, Galway, H91 N5P8. Admission is free, all are welcome, and the works are available for sale.**

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Jane Seymour *Conversations with Crows*  
Etched, slip painted and multi-fired earthenware, 19x19x2.5in



Mike Byrne, *The Monument*, Ceramic, 12x19x7 (total)

The official opening of  
**Form and Surface: New Ceramics**  
 By JANE SEYMOUR and by MIKE BYRNE  
 will take place at the Kenny Gallery,  
 Liosbán, Tuam Road, Galway (H91 N5P8)  
 on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 6:00pm.

**The exhibition will be officially opened by**  
**ROB D'EATH** Potter & Curator of  
 Sliding Rock Ceramics, An Spideál

The exhibition will continue Monday to  
 Saturday, 9:00-17:00, at the Kenny Gallery  
 until the 31<sup>st</sup> of May.

***Admission is free and all are welcome.***







### **Mike Byrne**

Mike Byrne's ceramic practice explores the edges of, and the connections between design, function, narrative and art. The use of a combination of fired clay and other materials, both found and worked, combined with a loose interpretation of the components of the jug form, is an attempt to erode the boundaries between these disciplines. The way in which we consider familiar objects and their various relationships with symbolism, ceramic history and material culture is also part of the exploration.

Each structured piece is slab built, with surface patina resulting from multiple layers of engobe or coloured slips. Numerous firings take place until the desired depth of surface colour and texture is reached. Other elements like the etched copper handles and spouts are attached after the final firing.



## Jane Seymour

Born in 1954, Jane Seymour grew up in the marshlands of Suffolk, later the valleys and mountains of Wales. She had an unconventional upbringing with little formal training, but was encouraged by her parents to be creative in crafts; birthday presents included a weaving loom and supplies of drawing books. In her artwork and ceramics she is mainly self-taught, although strongly influenced by her mother Sally Seymour, who was an artist and potter and her father John Seymour who was a travel writer, broadcaster, and author of self-sufficiency books. Both sets of grandparents were also artists; her paternal grandfather AA Turbayne was an eminent book designer and bookbinding artist who set up the Carlton printers in London, and her maternal grandfather Frank Medworth was head of the art department in Sydney, and a painter in his own right.

For many years as a young mother, Jane ran a small craft business in Wales with her partner, a wood-turner. She painted on wooden boxes, silk scarves, and designed clothes to sell in their craft shop.

In 1994 Jane moved to rural Co. Clare, Ireland, where she built a house and studio, and applied herself to ceramics. Not being attracted to using glazes, but wanting to use her clay forms as a canvas for her drawings, she etches directly into the surface of the unfired clay, painting on layers of oxides and stains. She multi-fires her work, abrading the surface between each firing, and layering with oxides. This gives a depth and texture to her ceramics.

She makes strong hand-built sculptural ceramics with distinctive surface decorations, inspired by landscape, birdlife and the naked human form. She works from her life drawings and studies, the latter being influenced by great artists such as Modigliani, Gauguin, and Picasso among others.

Jane is a member of Portfolio Ireland; Ceramics Ireland; and is a selected member of the Crafts Potters Association London UK. Her work is in private collections, in Ireland, UK, and US, as well as by the OPW, Ireland. She has exhibited in Ireland, UK, and her work was selected for the Landmarks exhibition 2020 in the Ceramic Ireland Fourth Triennial, which will be traveling to Italy later this summer.



Jane Seymour, *Small Cylinder Vessel with Blue Face*, 8in high





Mike Byrne, *Caledonia*, Ceramic, 19x11x5.5in

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Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery  
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Gallery hours: Monday to Saturday, 9:00-17:00