



# LIZ WORKMAN


HAND COILED PORCELAIN POTS






## ABOUT

Liz Workman makes sculptural ceramic vessels by hand using coils of porcelain and a few simple tools. Her pieces resemble female figures that are grounded, solid, and immovable; they are about motherhood, separation and being in limbo.



They are also a celebration of the ageing female body: imperfect, beautiful and proudly showing their battle scars. Each pot is unique and is decorated by drawing into the surface of the clay with a pin, so like a tattoo, the pattern becomes part of it. The lines, dots and circles featured either mark passing time, like tree rings, or reference microscopic cells.



*Standing Mother*, 2023, 33 x 26 cm







WHY

After a career in branding and design, Liz returned to working with clay as a way of managing a long-term chronic illness.

Every decision about the way she makes is driven by a desire to reach a flow state so her hands, mind and the clay are totally in sync.

Although, Liz makes work that is about the weight of responsibility and the loads mothers carry; her pots are also both beautiful and functional. Objects that bring joy and can simultaneously stand for comfort and strength.

Overleaf, left: *Leaning Mother*, 2023, 27 x 27 cm,  
right: *Seated Mother*, 2022, 25 x 16 cm









## PROCESS

Liz chooses to work with porcelain because of its beauty and its historic legacy, and also because she loves the challenge of coiling with it - as it demands total focus and great care.



Once each form is complete she carves into the leather-hard pot using a pin. Depending on the size of the piece these drawings can take anything from a few hours to a couple of days. She then inlays the carvings with cobalt oxide and finishes with a transparent glaze fired to 1260°.



Although she uses similar motifs, each drawing is totally unique and a spontaneous response to the vessel.









## BIO

Liz was born in London and learnt how to make pots while at school. She graduated from Cardiff Art College with a BA in Ceramics, and has an MA in Book Arts from Camberwell Art College.



Her ceramics are in private collections and her artist books are in the collections of Tate, V&A and UAL. In 2007, Rizzoli published a book of her photography.



She still lives in South London with her family and two cats and makes work from her home studio.





CONTACT

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