

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Isabel Cooper
 T: 01372 462 190
 E: isabel@parkerharris.co.uk

www.jerwoodvisualarts.org

Jerwood Encounters: The Grantchester Pottery paints the stage

16 January – 22 February 2015, Jerwood Space, London

**MICHAEL FULLERTON/ SOPHIE VON HELLERMANN/ MARIA LOBODA/
 ANNE LOW/ DIETMAR LUTZ/ EDWIN PICKSTONE/ PHIL ROOT/
 GILES ROUND/ CALLY SPOONER/ SAM WINDETT**



Jerwood Encounters: The Grantchester Pottery paints the stage is the next exhibition in the Jerwood Visual Arts' Encounters series curated by The Grantchester Pottery, an artist collaboration between sculptor Giles Round and painter Phil Root.

Founded in 2011 The Grantchester Pottery takes the structural framework of an artist's decorative arts studio, drawing historical precedent from Roger Fry's Omega Workshops. It seeks to produce a series of utilitarian ceramics together with other decorative household items such as printed & woven textiles, wallpaper, painted furniture and hand painted murals. It draws inspiration from Cambridgeshire and specifically on the rich heritage of Art & Literature that surrounds Grantchester as a historic meeting place for writers, poets, artists & philosophers. The Grantchester Pottery is a fictitious nod towards this specific history whilst at the same time using it as a basis for conceptual departure.

In this exhibition works by The Grantchester Pottery's associated artists will be presented together for the first time and framed by an adaptable stage set designed by the company. As with the convention of stage theatre, all works will face the same vantage point, towards a hypothetical audience. The visitor enters centre stage and is immersed in the set of a three act melodrama singularly aligned for an ideal and impossible vista.

The exhibition will comprise printed fabric, paintings, tapestries, ceramics, sculpture, and the realisation of three large painted murals by The Grantchester Pottery directly onto the gallery walls.

A catalogue, designed by The Grantchester Free Press will be available in the gallery during the exhibition. Blog posts by Jerwood Visual Arts' Writer in Residence, will be published throughout the exhibition here: blog.jerwoodvisualarts.org

Also showing at Jerwood Space from 12 January until 2 May 2015 is a new commission by Paul Schneider in the Project Space.

For further details about the exhibition and accompanying events visit: jerwoodvisualarts.org

- Ends -

Exhibition information

Title: Jerwood Encounters: The Grantchester Pottery paints the stage
Exhibition dates: 16 January – 22 February 2015
Address: Jerwood Space, 171 Union St, London SE1 0LN
Opening Times: Mon-Fri 10am–5pm, Sat/Sun 10am–3pm
Admission: Free
Nearest tube: Southwark, London Bridge or Borough
Website: jerwoodvisualarts.org
Twitter: @JerwoodJVA #JVATGP

Exhibition events: Free but must be booked in advance, for further information please visit www.jerwoodvisualarts.org or contact: jva@jerwoodspace.co.uk

Notes to editors

Established in early 2011, **The Grantchester Pottery** is a decorative arts company set up by artists Phil Root & Giles Round. Drawing historical precedent from Roger Fry's Omega Workshops as well as other artists' decorative arts studios like the Rebel Arts Centre, Hammer Prints & Atelier Martine, The Grantchester Pottery seeks to produce a series of utilitarian ceramics together with other decorative household items such as printed & woven textiles, wallpaper, painted furniture and hand painted murals. The Grantchester Pottery aims to substitute, wherever possible the directly expressive quality of the artist's handling for the deadness of mechanical reproduction.

The Grantchester Pottery is an artistic collaboration between sculptor Giles Round & painter Phil Root. It takes the structural framework of an artist's decorative arts studio. The collaboration began in early 2011 during a period of residency at Wysing Arts Centre. It draws inspiration from Cambridgeshire and specifically on the rich heritage of Art & Literature that surrounds Grantchester as a historic meeting place for writers, poets, artists & philosophers. The Grantchester Pottery is a fictitious nod towards this specific history whilst at the same time using it as a basis for conceptual departure.

Recent exhibitions and presentations include: *The Influence of Furniture on Love*, Wysing Grange Farmhouse, 2014; *Backdrop Commission*, Jerwood Space, London, 2014; *Pleasure, Devotion, Balance*, curated by Mexico, Eastside Projects, Birmingham, 2014; *ARTIST DECORATORS*, ICA, London, 2013; *Mud and Water*, Rokeby, London, 2013; *Studio Wares*, David Dale, Glasgow, 2013; *Publish & Be Damned*, ICA, London, 2013; *House of Voltaire*, Studio Voltaire at Jonathan Viner Gallery, London, 2012; *Art & Craft: Objects in a field of signifying Practices*, a public lecture with Glenn Adamson & Kit Hammonds, Royal College of Art, London, 2012; *Décor*, ROWING, London, 2012; *Grantchester Ices*, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge, 2012; *Publish & Be Damned*, ICA, London, 2012; *Slipped*, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge, 2011. www.thegrantchesterpottery.com

The Grantchester Free Press produces print alongside each significant work & exhibitions of The Grantchester Pottery. The publications serve as both record and source book to each project or series of wares. These thus far include: *Studio Wares*, 2014; *The Stone Wares*, 2014; *A Pattern Sampler*, 2013; *A Coffee Service: an illustrated catalogue*, 2012, *Grantchester Ices*, 2012. www.thegrantchesterpottery.com/TGFP.html

Jerwood Visual Arts is a contemporary gallery programme of awards, exhibitions and events at Jerwood Space, London and on tour nationally. Jerwood Visual Arts supports and showcases the work of talented emerging artists. It aims to make connections and provoke conversations within and across visual arts disciplines. A major initiative of the Jerwood Charitable Foundation. www.jerwoodvisualarts.org

Jerwood Encounters are one-off curated exhibitions which provide artists and curators with new exhibition opportunities and the chance to explore issues and territories in the borderlands between the main disciplinary fields of the Jerwood Visual Arts programme. Previous exhibitions in the Encounters series have included: *Suspicion*, curated by Dan Coombs, and *TTTT*, curated by Sarah Williams, in 2014; *Family Politics*, curated by Photoworks, and *After Hours*, curated by Nick Eagleton, in 2013; *“Now I Gotta Reason”*, curated by Marcus Coates and Grizedale Arts, and *ASSEMBLY* curated by Sarah Williams, in 2012; *TERRA*, curated by Hayley Skipper, Forestry Commission England, and *SHOW*, curated by Sarah Williams, in 2011; *For the Sake of the Image*, curated by Suki Chan, and *Passing Thoughts and Making Plans*, curated by Catherine Yass, in 2009.

Jerwood Charitable Foundation is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting emerging artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org

Little Greene is kindly providing the paint for The Grantchester Pottery murals. Little Greene is the last independent, British paint manufacturer still making a complete range of traditional and modern paints and wallpapers for domestic use. With records dating back to the year 1773, Little Greene was reincarnated in its present form by David Mottershead and a team of friends on the outskirts of Manchester in 2001 and since then has become a favourite of Interior designers and householders alike. Little Greene’s beautiful colours and wallpaper designs are taken from many inspirations as well as thorough research, including scientific and historical analysis of samples from period properties and the archives of English Heritage. All Little Greene products are manufactured in the UK to an exceptionally high standard; designed to be beautiful, durable and stand the test of modern living. www.littlegreene.com

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Image: Courtesy The Grantchester Photographic Society