

CRAFTS STUDY CENTRE

UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS FALKNER ROAD FARNHAM SURREY GU9 7DS
TEL: 01252 891450 CRAFTSCENTRE@UCA.AC.UK WWW.CSC.UCA.AC.UK

Press Release

Open

27 August 2024 to 16 August 2025

Address: Crafts Study Centre, Falkner Road, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 7DS
Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-4pm

The Crafts Study Centre is:

- *Open* to fresh interpretations of its collections of twentieth and twenty-first century British craft, including narratives of craft that have been overlooked.
- *Open* to reflecting the greater diversity of craft practice in Britain and examining the global networks that underpin the development of studio craft.
- *Open* to the public and here to facilitate research and engagement with its collections.

These ambitions are reflected in this exhibition in two ways. Firstly, through a showcase of the work of the Sudanese-born potter Siddig el Nigoumi, including *Large Triangular Dish* (1979) that was acquired by the Crafts Study Centre in March 2024. Nigoumi settled in Farnham in the late 1960s and was a respected and admired practitioner, teaching on the dynamic ceramic course at the West Surrey College of Art and Design, under the leadership of Henry Hammond. The exhibition provides a rare chance to see a wide range of Nigoumi's work, from the burnished red earthenware with incised pattern for which he was well-known, to figurines and press-moulded stoneware with slip-trailing. Placing Nigoumi's work in context are vitrines showing other craftspeople that were part of this buoyant period of craft education and practice in Farnham - namely Hammond, Paul Barron, Ladi Kwali and Susan Bosence. The section concludes with examples of work made with a glaze that Nigoumi produced, which is still in use in Farnham at 318 Ceramics, a local pottery education centre and workshop.

Surrounding the central cases are works from the Crafts Study Centre's collections, chosen by five early career makers of the New Ashgate Gallery's *Rising Stars* programme. Their selections offer unique thematic pathways through the collections that cut across material specialism, from a focus on samples and test pieces, to looking at gender in textile crafts. Four makers have responded to the collection with their own work, attesting to the relevance and vitality of twentieth century British studio craft to practitioners today.

The acquisition of Nigoumi's *Large Triangular Dish* was supported by the Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Fund and signals the Centre's ambition to diversify our collections of British studio craft as stated in the Centre's recent Collections Development Policy (2022- 28). It is the first work by Nigoumi in the Centre's collections, addressing a significant omission of a prominent artist with strong links to Farnham, who was respected within the wider studio ceramic community of the 1970s and 80s. Work in the exhibition by Mohammed Abdalla, Ladi Kwali and Danlami Aliyu provide a broader context for Nigoumi's pieces and demonstrates the importance of black artists to

CRAFTS STUDY CENTRE

UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS FALKNER ROAD FARNHAM SURREY GU9 7DS
TEL: 01252 891450 CRAFTSCENTRE@UCA.AC.UK WWW.CSC.UCA.AC.UK

post-war British studio ceramics. Two events celebrating this rich heritage are timed to coincide with Black History Month and Farnham Craft Month (see below).

The Crafts Study Centre is grateful to Vicki Nigoumi, Oxford Ceramics Gallery and Ian Simpson for loaning work to the exhibition. We would also like to thank the Rising Stars 2024 makers for engaging wholeheartedly in the brief and contributing their own work to the exhibition.

Images for press

1. Siddig el Nigoumi, *Large Triangular Dish*, 1979. Image courtesy of the Crafts Study Centre, 2024.15.
2. Siddig el Nigoumi, *Large Triangular Dish*, 1979 [detail]. Image courtesy of the Crafts Study Centre, 2024.15.
3. Gwen Mullins, *Secrets*, 1970s. Image courtesy of the Crafts Study Centre, T.74.36.
4. Audrey Blackman, *Onto the Wing (Opus 18)*, 1960s. Image courtesy of the Crafts Study Centre. P.77.13.
5. Edmund de Waal, *china earth, II*, 2016. Image courtesy of the Crafts Study Centre, 2016.47.
6. Lucie Rie and Hans Coper, *Bowl*, 1950s. Image courtesy of the Crafts Study Centre, P.74.24.

The exhibition will be accompanied by the following events

- Friday 4th October, 11-12.30pm. Director's Tour.
- Thursday 10th October, 12.30-2pm. Siddig el Nigoumi: A Farnham Potter
- Tuesday 15th October, 11-12.30pm. Spotlight Talk: Dierdre Figueiredo on the Pottery Demonstration of Ladi Kwali.

Admission to the Crafts Study Centre and its exhibitions is free. Events are free to attend, but booking is recommended: <https://www.csc.uca.ac.uk/programme>

About New Ashgate Rising Stars programme

The New Ashgate's Rising Stars programme is a curated, national platform for early career makers including recent MA and BA students, that includes a selling exhibition and a range of professional development events for successful applicants. Each year 20-25 makers are awarded places, and the programme has made a commitment to offer a minimum of 5 places to makers who are black, Asian, or are from ethnically diverse backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ makers, and makers who identify as having a visible or non-visible disability, in the southeast region. The CSC supports this endeavour to engage under-represented groups in the crafts, particularly for makers at the start of their careers.

About the Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund

The Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund is a government fund that helps regional museums, record offices and specialist libraries in England and Wales to acquire objects relating to the arts, literature and history. It was established at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) in 1881 and continues to be part of its nationwide work. The annual grants budget, currently £725,000, is

CRAFTS STUDY CENTRE

UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS FALKNER ROAD FARNHAM SURREY GU9 7DS
TEL: 01252 891450 CRAFTSCENTRE@UCA.AC.UK WWW.CSC.UCA.AC.UK

provided by Arts Council England National Lottery Funding. Each year, the Purchase Grant Fund considers some 150 applications and awards grants to around 100 organisations, enabling acquisitions of over £3 million to go ahead.

About the Crafts Study Centre

The Crafts Study Centre at the University for the Creative Arts is a specialist university museum and research centre, open to the public. It is home to internationally acclaimed collections of modern and contemporary British craft, in the fields of calligraphy and lettering, ceramics, textiles, and furniture and wood, as well as archival material including diaries, working notes and photographs. The Centre hosts inspiring exhibitions by leading artist-makers, lectures, symposiums and open days. The Centre's Research Room and Library are available by appointment for those interested in learning more about our collections.

www.csc.uca.ac.uk

Contacts:

Stephen Knott
Director, Crafts Study Centre
stephen.knott@uca.ac.uk

Crafts Study Centre:
craftscentre@uca.ac.uk
01252 891450

Supported by



makinggoode

