

**PRESS RELEASE- 29 August 2014**

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**EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release**

**Jerwood Visual Arts to unveil the inaugural Backdrop Commission, a new work by The Grantchester Pottery at Jerwood Space**



The Grantchester Pottery, *Kyoto, 2004*, 2014, (detail). Image: courtesy of the artist.

**The Grantchester Pottery**

*Kyoto, 2004*

**Launching 17 September 2014**

Jerwood Visual Arts Backdrop Commission

Jerwood Space, London, SE1 0LN

**Jerwood Visual Arts is delighted to present the inaugural Backdrop Commission by The Grantchester Pottery, an artistic collaboration between sculptor Giles Round and painter Phil Root.**

Established in 2011, The Grantchester Pottery takes the structural framework of a decorative arts studio. Drawing upon historical precedents such as Rebel Arts Centre, Hammer Prints and Atelier Martine for a point of conceptual departure, The Grantchester Pottery produce decorative domestic objects including utilitarian ceramics, woven textiles, painted furniture and murals. They seek to substitute, wherever possible, the expressive quality of the artist's handling for the deadness of mechanical reproduction.

For the Backdrop Commission The Grantchester Pottery have developed a new artwork, *Kyoto, 2004*, a large-scale reproduction of a hand-painted collage that utilises a cut-out technique characteristic of the duo's collaborative practice. The collaged composition reflects Jerwood Spaces' commitment to nurturing theatre and dance by considering the illusory nature of the stage, drawing inspiration from the painted stage works of David Hockney and Japanese architecture. The resulting artwork, reminiscent of early modernist compositions, recreates an interior as flat abstraction.

Printed onto aluminum panels, the piece is 6 metres wide by 2.4 metres high and sits adjacent to the glasshouse and Café 171. The Backdrop Commission initiative references the activities and community of Jerwood Space, which is widely recognised as one of the best rehearsal spaces for theatre and dance in the country. **(continues...)**

The Backdrop Commission accompanies the main **Jerwood Visual Arts** exhibition programme and sits alongside the long-running Project Space initiative.

### Listings Info

Artist: The Grantchester Pottery  
 Title: *Backdrop Commission: Kyoto, 2004*  
 Dates: 17 September 2015 – September 2015  
 Address: Courtyard, Jerwood Space, London, SE1 0LN  
 Opening Times: Mon - Fri 10am – 5pm, Sat - Sun 10am – 3pm  
 Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays  
 Admission: Free  
 Nearest tube: Southwark, London Bridge or Borough

For further information about the Backdrop Commission visit: <http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/3081/At-Jerwood-Space>

For further information about the Jerwood Visual Arts programme please visit: [jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://jerwoodvisualarts.org) or follow Jerwood Visual Arts on Twitter: @JerwoodJVA #JOF14

### Notes to editors

The **Grantchester Pottery** was formed in 2011 by Giles Round and Phil Root during a period of residency at Wysing Arts Centre. Recent exhibitions and presentations include: *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](http://www.thegrantchesterpottery.com)

The **Backdrop Commission** provides a new commissioning opportunity within the **Jerwood Visual Arts** exhibition programme. Situated outside in the courtyard at **Jerwood Space**, adjacent to the glasshouse and Café 171, the work will be a backdrop for activity occurring in the courtyard and has been designed with that context in mind. Previously located in this space was the In Brief series which ran from 2003 – 2006, selected by Paul Hedge of Hales Gallery. The works included photographic portraits, digitally constructed prints and drawings. Emerging artists who showed their work as part of the series included: Paul McDevitt, Trevor Appleson, Katy Dove, Esther Harris, Richard Galpin, Lucy Stein and Jennifer Douglas. The Backdrop Commission accompanies the main Jerwood Visual Arts exhibition programme alongside the long-running Project Space initiative.

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

The **Jerwood Charitable Foundation** is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. [www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org)