

Clay Collective: Form as Function

Whitechapel
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Clay Collective are an East London based ceramics cooperative, showcasing and supporting artists and practitioners working with clay through a developing programme of events & projects. They invite you explore ceramics through the exhibition **Mary Heilmann: Looking at Pictures**, on display at the Whitechapel Gallery from 8 June -21 August 2016.



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Clay Collective invite you to take clay on a journey from 3D model, to ceramic canvas to functional object and sculpture, inspired by the exhibition, [Mary Heilmann: Looking at Pictures.](#)



Mary Heilmann Portrait. Photo by Philip Mauro web

Mary Heilmann was born in North America in 1940 and is still making work. She creates paintings, ceramics, chairs and films. She's inspired by the environment around her, popular culture and her own experiences.

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Activity

You will need; mobile phone, clay, rolling pin, coloured slips and modelling tools.

1) Using a ball of clay, you have 3mins to make;

- An animal
- A musical instrument
- How you felt this morning

Use the same piece of clay for all your creations.

2) Take the same ball of clay and roll it out into a flat slab. This will be your clay canvas!

3) **Mary Heilmann** is inspired by the world around her, places, objects and music. Find a photograph on your phone that you took, of something you experienced.

4) Use the coloured slips to paint an abstract version of your photograph directly onto your clay slab.

5) Now turn your abstract clay painting into a functional object or a sculpture.

What does the word Abstract mean?

Is art more or less valuable if it functions as something too?

What's the difference between a sculpture and an object?

