

# Zoe Hillyard

Zoë Hillyard is a Birmingham based artist who uses the tradition of hand-stitched patchwork as a mending process to revive the fortunes of discarded and broken ceramics. She replaces their original surface decoration with vintage textiles as she wraps individual fragments and then reassembles them, solely by stitch. Each piece is unique, with a flawed beauty that celebrates imperfection.

Having spent a year working as a VSO volunteer in Mongolia, Hillyard draws particular inspiration from the resourcefulness of nomadic life. Through adding new chapters to the journeys of existing objects, she seeks to question and strengthen our relationship to possessions. The Japanese ceramic mending tradition of Yobitsugi often challenges western conventions in relation to patching and this provides a reference for ongoing explorations into colour and pattern combinations.

Ceramic patchwork pieces are seductively tactile, with a surprising handling quality. Pieces can simply be the result of an interesting combination of unconnected second-hand items; equally they can be a commission to re-work imagery, textiles or ceramic possessions that have sentimental or historic value. They are designed to delight and to be treasured for the long-term.

## **EDUCATION**

2008 MSc Applied Overseas Development Studies, The University of Reading (distinction)

1999 Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Studies, Birmingham City University

1993 BA (Hons.) Textile Design (First Class), The Nottingham Trent University

1990 Certificate in Art Foundation Studies (Distinction), Middlesex Polytechnic

## **AWARDS**

2015 FRIS Award: Material Journeys, Fragile Structures, Research bursary, Birmingham City University

2014 Craft & Design Selected Maker: Gold Award, Textiles and Needlecraft Category

2013 The Pollie Weiss Colour Prize, Society of Designer Craftsmen

2013 Distinction Award, Society of Designer Craftsmen

2012 Antique of the Future Award, BBC Homes & Antique Award, Bovey Tracey

2012 Plymouth Museum & Art Gallery Purchase Award, Bovey Tracey

## **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

2017 Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London with CAA

2016 Made in the Middle, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

2016 Lives, Loves and Loss, Fenton House, National Trust, London

2016 The British Craft Pavilion, London Design Fair, London

2016 Souvenirs from Home, Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Devon

2016 Making in Colour, Ruthin Craft Centre, Wales