



## Middlesbrough Collection

The Middlesbrough Collection comprises over 2,350 works of art and craft made by British and international artists from the mid-1800s to today. It was established by Middlesbrough's local authorities and managed by the Middlesbrough Art Gallery, the Cleveland Gallery and the Cleveland Craft Centre until the foundation of the Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art in 2004 (opened in 2007).

The collection strengths are post-Second World War British painting, American contemporary drawing, twentieth-century British ceramics, European contemporary jewellery and twenty-first-century international installation. It includes works created with a variety of techniques and examining many themes.

The collection is at the core of the MIMA programme and a changing proportion of the collection is on permanent display. It is a key resource for constituent groups, schools, making workshops, the local arts community and returning visitors. MIMA actively seek to develop the collection through acquisitions and gifts and find new opportunities for research into existing holdings.

The collection comprises over 1,000 works across painting, drawing, photography, sculpture and video. Highlights in this field include works by artists; Frank Auerbach, Vanessa Bell, Elizabeth Blackadder, David Bomberg, Sonia Boyce, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Elisabeth Frink, Gwen John, Kathe Kollwitz, Margaret Harrison, Duncan Grant, Victor Pasmore, Bridget Riley, Veronica Ryan, Anwar Jalal Shemza and Stephen Willats. The collection has a significant emphasis on drawing, historically developed through the Cleveland Sketching Club and the Cleveland Drawing Biennial.

2007-2012, MIMA developed a significant collection of post-war American drawing with support from Art Fund International. Many of these works engage with identity politics, made by artists including; Nayland Blake, Andrea Bowers, Barbara Kruger, Glenn Ligon, Ana Mendieta, Adrian Piper and Kara Walker. This body of work builds on acquisitions of drawings made by the Middlesbrough Council through a Contemporary Art Society scheme prior to the opening of the museum.

In recent years, MIMA has increased the diversity and internationalism of the collection to redress the overrepresentation of white British male artists. Since 2015, and in dialogue with communities, academics and specialist researchers, the institution has sought to address this imbalance and to better understand and collect work by diverse voices and practices. Recent acquisitions include works by John Akomfrah, Kader Attia, Babi Badalov, Sonia Boyce, Chila Kumari Singh Burman, Nuria Güell, Margaret Harrison, Lubaina Himid, Teresa Margolles, Otobong Nkanga and Keith Piper.

The Ceramics strand of the collection charts the British Studio Pottery movement from the 1920s to today and its connections to contemporary art. It contains 515 items, mostly inherited from Cleveland Craft Centre, representing 174 acclaimed ceramicists. The collection has expanded at MIMA with acquisitions via grants such as the Northern Rock Foundation Craft Acquisition Scheme and the Contemporary Art Society's Omega Fund and Jackson Tang Ceramics Award.

It includes hand-built and wheel thrown forms, demonstrating varied techniques, decorations, glazes and finishes. It includes prototypes made during commissions and residencies, notably by Takeshi Yasuda in 1982-4 and 2003, and works in clay by artists not usually associated with it, such as John Piper. Other works show makers pushing clay's boundaries.

Key figures across three generations are represented, including William Staite Murray, Bernard Leach, Janet Leach, Lucie Rie, Hans Coper, Shoji Hamada, Katherine Pleydell-Bouverie, Ursula Mommens, Walter Keeler, Alison Britton, Elizabeth Fritsch, Jacqueline Poncelet, Sandy Brown, Sara Radcliffe, Emmanuel Cooper, Magdalene Odundo, Gillian Lowndes, Siddig El Nigoumi, Lubna Chowdhary, Edmund de Waal, Claire Curneen, Chun Liao and more. A growing strand of contemporary artists working in clay includes Emily Hesse, Chiara Camoni and Peter Hodgson with Laure Prouvost.

The Middlesbrough Collection includes international contemporary jewellery. The collection began when Ralph Turner, then Head of Exhibitions at the Crafts Council, visited Middlesbrough whilst looking for towns and cities outside of London to initiate a new collection of Contemporary Jewellery to rival that of the Crafts Council and V&A, both sited in London. Middlesbrough and the Craft Centre were chosen for this new venture.

The jewellery collection charts the development of jewellery design internationally, from the inception of the New Jewellery Movement of the 1980s through to the contemporary jewellery of today. The movement challenges the concept of jewellery primarily by questioning the traditional approach to wearability and the use of materials.

Key figures represented in the jewellery collection include; Gijs Bakker, Caroline Broadhead, Sigurd Bronger, Dorothy Hogg, Karl Fritsch, Gésine Hackenberg, Susanna Heron, Otto Künzli, Emmy Van Leersum, Felieke van der Leest, Stefano Marchetti, Ted Noten, Mi-Ah Rödiger and Wendy Ramshaw.