

BRENTFORD SPOON PROJECT

A community exhibition
of handmade spoons

PRESS RELEASE

Claire Ireland created a ceramic project during the pandemic to engage and help support her neighbours, local friends and their families in Brentford. The idea evolved and the invitation to make a spoon in clay began to spread further afield and included artists and makers who chose to work in a variety of different materials. This has developed into a remarkable collection of diverse and eclectic handmade spoons, made by over 120 participants, from all walks of life, all ages and including international contributions. One maker has grown her spoon in sugar crystals, while another created a pair in casein, a plastic made from milk.

Claire explains:

"I have always loved the notion of a spoon - a simple, ordinary tool, which is a part of our everyday life and has been around since Palaeolithic times. Prehistoric people adapted horns, shells and pieces of wood to make spoons and throughout history they have been made in so many different materials."

Claire has been invited by Boston Manor House to exhibit the collection of handmade spoons by over 120 participants. It will be on display in the **Library Gallery from Easter 2024**, with gallery spotlight tours of the exhibition scheduled during the show.

There are creative collage workshops planned for children and their families and ceramic workshops for adults to create spoons in porcelain inspired by the exhibition and the surrounding park.

This project was made possible thanks to the generous support of the John and Ruth Howard Trust and Hounslow's Thriving Communities Fund

An exhibition curated by Claire Ireland

Free entry

Noon – 5pm
Tuesday – Sunday
28th March – 8th September 2024

Boston Manor House
Boston Manor Rd
Brentford, TW8 9JX



NOTES TO EDITORS

About Claire Ireland

Claire Ireland is a ceramic sculptor and produces elegant hand-built sculptural forms; collectable objects, inspired by her studio's location in the grounds of the London Museum of Water and Steam in combination with a diverse array of visual research.



She is a professional member of the Craft Potters Association, the Society of Designer Craftsmen, Design Nation and Contemporary Applied Arts. A book commissioned by The Crowood Press, written by Claire on "Surface Decoration for Ceramics", was published in 2023.

An experienced tutor, Claire teaches contemporary ways of making, experimental surface decoration, alongside specialist short courses on smoke firing and paperclay techniques.

"Continuum" by Claire Ireland

Claire established a personal challenge for the Brentford Spoon Project. She has created three hundred and sixty-five ceramic spoons to represent one a day for a year.

claireirelandceramics.com

Instagram @ceramics.byclaire

Claire says

"Like many visual artists, I have kept sketchbooks throughout my career and many of those ideas don't often see the light of day. It has been a pleasure to re-visit those images, to transform and combine them into ceramic spoon designs"

About Boston Manor House

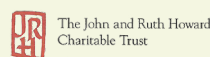
Boston Manor House is a Jacobean House built for Lady Mary Reade in 1623 and later owned by the Clitherow family until the 1920s. It is one of the earliest examples of British Renaissance style in London, surrounded by ancient cedar trees, a restored walled garden, and 34 acres of parkland, the largest green open space in Brentford.



The House re-opened to the public in July 2023 after a five-year restoration programme, which has seen it completely refurbished with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund, the Wolfson Foundation, the Pilgrims Trust, Historic England and the John and Ruth Howard Charitable Trust.

The house is now open to the public six days a week. Its beautifully restored historic interiors, including the original plaster work, now has two exhibition galleries, meeting rooms and a contemporary café.

Website: bostonmanorhouse.org



Press Enquiries

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