

# York Museums Trust



at York Art Gallery

Hands on Here! is a Trust wide programme where volunteers enable visitors to get hands on with real collection objects. At York Art Gallery, we look at ceramic objects from CoCA (Centre of Ceramic Art) and the artists that made them.

**'Gillian Lowndes: Mixing Mediums'** – Help our visitors to learn about the history and work of ceramist Gillian Lowndes and how she liked to experiment with clay. Getting up close and personal with Gillian's work which is normally too fragile to be handled.



**'Leech Family Tree'** - This activity explores the work and legacy of Bernard Leech, widely recognised as the father of studio pottery. Although never consciously setting out to do so, Leech founded a family dynasty of potters. Get hands on with work from 3 generations of potters and explore their work, individual stories and connections.



**'Touching Textures'**- This activity is designed to give the visitor hands on experience of the different textures tools can make in clay and to learn about the materials and techniques potter's use. Use your hands to feel your way into the potter's world, feel how the clay and the glazes can create different sensations and emotions on work. Explore work by Ewen Henderson, Merete Rasmussen, among others.



**'Mythical Creatures and Magical Landscapes'** - This activity aims to explore the use of figurative and landscape images in clay throughout history. Using ceramist Ian Godfrey as a case study it looks at how clay figuration has had a long story in the history of ceramics and how modern studio ceramists use this history to reflect their own love of myth and the more mystical and ceremonial aspects of long lost cultures. Explore Ian Godfrey's work alongside East Asian Art.



### **Training**

We provide object handling and customer care training for Hands on Here! volunteers as well as specific training sessions for each of the different activities that we run. All our volunteers receive a full health and safety site induction.

### **Time Commitment**

Hands on Here! sessions are volunteer-led and run during both term time and school holidays. There is a selection of activities for volunteers to choose from. Volunteers can run activities from 11am to 4pm every day of the week and it works best when volunteers can commit to a regular slot, eg every Tuesday morning or every Saturday afternoon.

A minimum commitment of one half day activity session per week or fortnight is acceptable, but volunteers who have more time to offer can always be accommodated. Ideally we like volunteers who can commit to the project for at least 6 months, as it can take several weeks to get through the initial training programme.

### **Other essential information**

As a charity, we do not have a budget for travel expenses or meal allowances, so unfortunately we are unable to reimburse travel or subsistence costs incurred by volunteers in the course of their day to day volunteering.

We do cover the cost of all the training and training materials that we provide. As a visitor facing volunteer, you will be asked to wear YMT volunteer t shirts and sweatshirts and name badges so that visitors can easily identify them as being the people in the know!