



Dame Lucie Rie

Potter

Born: 16 March 1902

Died: 1 April 1995

ARTY FACT!

The London studio where Lucie Rie made her pots for 50 years has been rebuilt as a display in the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Lucie Rie's life

Lucie (pronounced 'Lootzie') was born in Vienna, Austria.

She learnt to be a potter at a craft and design college. Students went to the college to learn how to make useful things like furniture, clothes and pots.

When Lucie left college in 1925 she soon became very successful. People loved the shapes and colours of her pots, which she wanted to be both beautiful and useful.

Lucie was Jewish, and in 1938 she came to England to get away from the Nazis. It must have been very difficult for her to leave behind her friends, her family, her work and the success she had made for herself.

She set up a pottery in London, but she was not well known in England so she found it difficult to sell her pots.

During the Second World War she made buttons, which were easier for her to sell.

What makes Lucie Rie special?

After the Second World War, people began to see how lovely Lucie's pots were. At the time, hand-made pottery tended to be quite thick and heavy compared to pots made in a factory and hand-made pots were often brown. Lucie made delicate pots in unusual shapes and decorated them with bright colours and patterns. Soon she didn't have to make buttons anymore.

Lucie made pots until she was 88, when she stopped because she was too ill to carry on.

Lucie Rie was one of the most important modern potters to have worked in Britain. Her pots sell for thousands of pounds and are in museums around the world.

WHAT CAN YOU SEE?

Can you find a pot by Lucie Rie on display in the gallery?
How would you describe its shape?
What colour is it?
What would you use it for?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Try using air drying clay to make a bowl.
When the clay is dry use paint to decorate it - scratch patterns through the paint when it is dry.