



Felicity Aylieff

Potter

Born: 1954

ARTY FACT!

Felicity has always been a teacher as well as an artist.

Most artists sometimes work as teachers, which means that many art teachers are artists.

Felicity Aylieff's life

Felicity grew up in a village in rural Bedfordshire. She studied ceramics and textiles at the Bath Academy of Arts and then trained to be a teacher in London.

She taught in schools, colleges and universities all over the country whilst also developing her own work as a potter. At first she made traditional, domestic bowls and vases, then she became more interested in making larger, sculptural forms. In the 1990s Felicity decided to go back to college to study for a masters degree at the Royal College of Art. Her time at college allowed her to try out new ways of working. She experimented with materials, mixing glass and porcelain into different types of clay.

What makes Felicity Aylieff special?

In 2007 Felicity received a grant to travel and work in China. She went to Jingdezhen (pronounced 'jing-de-jen') a city famous for producing porcelain. Porcelain is a very white, hard pottery which can be formed into delicate shapes. It is still used to make the best cups and plates.

The potters in Jingdezhen are very skilled. Felicity worked with them to make huge pots, some over 3 meters tall. Then she decorated them using traditional Chinese glazes and brushes. Because the pots were so big she had to climb a ladder to paint some of them.

"coming from both a ceramic and textile background I feel at home experimenting with surface and pattern. The vases are like a huge canvas"

Each pot takes around 3 weeks to decorate and 4 days to fire. Felicity travels to China regularly now and her work is shown all over the world.

WHAT CAN YOU SEE?

Can you find the giant pot made by Felicity Aylieff?

Look carefully at the blue colours in the glazed (shiny) parts of the design.

Can you find any other pots on display that have the same blue colours?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The patterns on the surface of the pot are based on flowers and plants.

Go into the Museum Gardens and draw some of the plants there.

Use your drawings to help you design a pattern.