

Water at Work

Ceramics artist Jenny Beavan expresses her fascination with water and the geological changes it causes

Jenny Beavan is an internationally known ceramic artist who works closely with the materials found near her home on Bodmin Moor. She graduated in 1973 with a BA in ceramics from Manchester Polytechnic and has since exhibited widely, receiving numerous prizes, including South Weion Fund to work in the china clay pits of Cornwall. As well as teaching and writing, she has roles on a number of arts associations.

This solo show in Plymouth enables us to catch up with her recent work – an exploration into material and place, where she observes processes of interdependence between water and geological change. Working with a 'place' is essential to her working practice, and she makes frequent visits to local sites to collect information and material, which she then recycles back into her work.

She works primarily in porcelains and

local china clay, which she uses for their ability to enhance colour and to perform. She seeks to portray the nature of both porcelain and water as they share the same free spirit, both determining their own life force/equilibrium, defying unnatural pressures to be tamed.

Through the introduction of combustible and non-combustible materials, she induces cracks and cavities often with the intention of destabilising and creating change. Fluxing agents, such as feldspar and glass, are often used for contrast and effect as well as to regain stability in the structure.

'Water at Work' is on show at 45 Southside Street, the Barbican, Plymouth, 14 March – 7 April. An artist's talk will take place on 27 March at 4.30pm. Admission is free, but call ahead to secure a place. 01752 224974, www.45southside.co.uk



Jenny Beavan constructing 'Matrix'

