

Design Lab: Phoebe Cummings at the V&A

A 40 Artist Educator Resource:
Be Inspired by Phoebe Cummings & V&A



1. Phoebe Cummings, detail from residency studio, 2010 ©Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Students, from the DesignLab at the V&A, London, worked with artist Phoebe Cummings over a three month period to create a

site-specific, group piece, from unfired clay which was inspired by the historical 2D designs found on 19th century British tableware in the collection.

This project was shared with AccessArt as part of the 40 Artist Educator Project, funded by Arts Council England, aiming to highlight and celebrate artist-led teaching and facilitation.

DesignLab with Phoebe Cummings at the Victoria and Albert Museum

During her residency Phoebe worked with a group of Year 11 students from Stoke on Trent – home to a rich ceramics heritage and more recently the British Ceramics Biennial. The project aimed to connect to this local tradition of ceramic design and industry in a contemporary way.

For the DesignLab project, Phoebe wanted to explore the idea of translating and interpreting flat ceramic designs into three-dimensional forms in clay. The students were invited to investigate Phoebe's studio and were shown first-hand her working processes and techniques. Through exploring Phoebe's practice, the students worked over a three month period to create a site-specific group piece from unfired clay which was inspired by the historical 2D designs found on 19th century British tableware in the collection.

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