

## PRESS RELEASE

### MAAK ANNOUNCE LAUNCH OF MAAK FOUNDATION

**London, 2022:** Maak is delighted to announce the launch of Maak Foundation, a charitable initiative with the primary purpose of supporting and promoting studio ceramics. By providing funding towards the publication of books dedicated to studio ceramics the aim is to stimulate an ever wider appreciation and understanding of this specialist creative art form.

Initiated and founded by Marijke Varrall-Jones, Maak Foundation's Board of Trustees will award grants of between £1,000 - £5,000 with submissions welcomed twice a year. Grants will provide focused funding for primary research, with supported projects resulting in the publication of books and literary material that will be available to the general public and have a clear art-historical perspective.



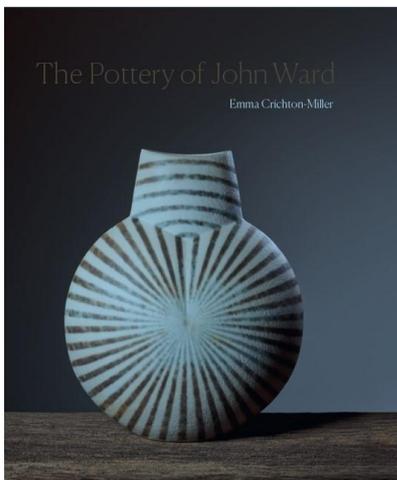
*“Over the 20 or so years of specialising in studio ceramics I have actively expand my library at every opportunity. Yet studio ceramics is relatively underrepresented in art-historical literature terms. So many of our most important ceramic artists or developments in studio ceramics as a movement are only superficially referenced with only a handful afforded the accolade of comprehensive exploration. With Maak Foundation our hope is to provide much needed funding to authors, institutions and publishers looking to publish high quality books and literary materials on this subject, allowing many*

*more people to build a deeper understanding and appreciation of the artistic contributions of these artists and craftspeople. Through supporting research, we can support the publication of books and public displays celebrating the very best ceramics. We are proud that Maak can be at the forefront for patronage and an advocate of expertise.”* Marijke Varrall-Jones

## INAUGURAL GRANT BENEFICIARY

Maak Foundation are delighted to have awarded their first grant to support the family of John Ward and Lund Humphries in the publication of *The Pottery of John Ward* by Emma Crichton-Miller.

The award of this inaugural grant has special significance for Maak Foundation as it was an initial discussion about this project that inspired the very idea of Maak Foundation. The Trustees are grateful to the Ward family and Emma Crichton-Miller for their council and highlighting the great benefit that Maak Foundation grants can bring to help niche projects such as this, that may otherwise face strong funding competition in a wider arts context, come to fruition.



### ***The Pottery of John Ward* by Emma Crichton-Miller**

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John Ward has a longstanding reputation as one of Britain's most important and influential potters, and yet very little has been written about the manifold achievements of his fifty-year career. In close collaboration with Ward's family, Emma Crichton-Miller has written an authoritative and enlightening account of his life and work which firmly places his influence within the history of British Studio Pottery.

The book has been made possible thanks to the generous support of Maak Foundation, the Loewe Foundation and a number of private donations.

*"I am very proud that the Maak Foundation has chosen to support the publication *The Pottery of John Ward* as its launch project. For projects of this type - labours of love, which can take years to realise - a generous intervention at the right moment can make all the difference; it very much has in this case. There is currently very little support for early research in the ceramics field so Maak Foundation's visionary idea to step into this breach is timely, as public interest in the field grows. There is no book currently available about John Ward, and I am delighted that Maak has been able to support the Ward family and Lund Humphries in honouring this important potter."*

Emma Crichton-Miller, Author and Editor

*“Knowing that John has for most of his career chosen to remain very private about sharing his thoughts on his work, preferring the strength of the pots to speak for themselves, this project felt like a one-time moment for John to share his narrative. It will allow the many people who already so admire him to understand his work on a deeper level, whilst providing an opportunity to introduce his work to an ever wider audience at the same time. We were delighted to have been approached by the Ward family, where the initial discussion formed the seed of the idea for Maak Foundation and our ambitions to replicate the success of this project on a lasting basis.”*

Marijke Varrall-Jones, Chair, Maak Foundation

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About Maak Foundation**

Maak Foundation was formed with the purpose of advancing the education and understanding of studio ceramics by providing funding for research and projects that will result in the publication of material and resources for the wider public.

Funding is available to individuals and organisations through grants with applications open for submission two times per year. Funding priorities are for:

- Research into important individual ceramic artists, groups of ceramic artists or broader artistic developments in studio ceramics for subsequent publication.
- Written material to support non-commercial exhibitions of studio ceramics intended to provide educational opportunities to the general public.

Applications for the next round of funding will open for submission on 2nd January 2023, and close on 31 January.

For further information or to apply visit: [www.maakfoundation.org.uk](http://www.maakfoundation.org.uk)

To donate to the Maak Foundation: [Donate](#)

## **BOOK LAUNCH, PANEL DISCUSSION & CURATED EXHIBITION**

**Tuesday 15 November**

**49 Earlham Street | Covent Garden**

To celebrate the publication of the book in October 2022, Maak will co-host a special evening with panel discussion and small retrospective exhibition of works by John Ward from the family collection, exploring the career of this remarkable potter on Tuesday 15 November, Covent Garden, London.

### **About Maak**

Maak is the specialist auction house and art consultancy dedicated to the foremost international ceramic art of the 20th and 21st centuries. Maak was established in 2009 by

Marijke Varrall-Jones, launching their auction program in 2011.

**About The Pottery of John Ward,**

By Emma Crichton-Miller with foreword by John Ward

This is the first book to survey the life and work of one of Britain's foremost studio potters. Setting out to explore and define those distinctions - expressing what makes Ward's pots compelling and historically significant - the potter's important artistic contribution will finally be expressed.

The book includes stunning new photography commissioned from Sylvain Deleu of some of Ward's most important works - many held in rarely seen private collections.

Pub Date: 3 October 2022 (January 2023 in North America) | Price: £35/\$69.99

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