

SONYA WILKINS

ARTIST STATEMENT

Sonya Wilkins is a ceramic artist whose practice is grounded in ecological sensitivity, material enquiry and a deep attentiveness to the natural world. Clay is her conduit and nature her provocation; through quiet observation, intuition and embodied response, she translates encounters with landscape into sculptural and functional vessel forms.

Working with wild-foraged clays, commercial clays and organic materials, Sonya allows the geological and material character of place to inform each work. She predominantly throws and re-forms her vessels, developing their surfaces through sgraffito, layering, stencil and textural processes. Her work explores the vessel as an embodied, relational object – a carrier of memory, story, biophilic connection and belonging.

Increasingly, her practice considers how individual forms exist within wider living systems, drawing on trees, roots, branching structures and interconnected ecologies. Rather than literal representation, the work seeks to evoke the felt experience of landscape and our relationship with it.

Environmental responsibility is embedded throughout her practice through locally sourced and hand-processed wild clays, reclaimed materials, up-cycled glazes and climate-conscious studio processes. Her Carbon Literacy Training in 2024 further strengthened this commitment.

EXPERIENCE

CREATIVE MENTOR AT BATH SPA UNIVERSITY, POSTGRADUATE RESIDENCY 2025-PRESENT

Facilitator for quarterly group critique meetings; offering guidance and advice to the artist community. Delivering various inspiring and developmental workshops.

STUDIO RESIDENCY AT 'EMERGE' POSTGRADUATE RESIDENCY, BATH SPA UNI 2023-2025 (2 CONSECUTIVE YEARS)

Delivering 'The Versatility of Clay' workshops for BA students at Locksbrook Campus; Running 'Biophilia & Creativity' workshops; Facilitating MAFA student drop-in support sessions.

PROFESSIONAL CERAMIC ARTIST, SONYA WILKINS CERAMICS 2023-PRESENT

Independent studio practice encompassing sculptural and functional ceramics, material research, exhibition development, public engagement and national gallery/show representation.

INDEPENDENT CERAMIC PRACTICE | 2016-PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBER, WEST COUNTRY POTTERS ASSOCIATION; SOUTH WEST 2024

Website Officer Role; Team Management; Meeting Facilitation; Website Development; Website Dev. Consultation; Google Analytics Reporting; Strategic Planning.



Sonya Wilkins
Ceramic Artist
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EDUCATION

MA Fine Art (Ceramics)
Distinction
Bath Spa University | 2023

BA (Hons) Ceramics
Upper Second Class (2.1)
Bristol Bower Ashton | 1995

Art & Design Foundation
Distinction
Bristol Bower Ashton | 1992

FUNDING & AWARDS

**2026 – ALL TOGETHER
NOW FUND, £5,504**

Creative Council, Come Together and Make – awarded to support a collaborative community arts project exploring creativity, connection within local communities and making for wellness

**2025 – A-N ARTIST
BURSARY, £1,000**

Glaze research and development using colourants from organic matter

EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

GALLERY PARTNER, SATORI GALLERY; BRISTOL 2016-2018

Event Management; Exhibition Curation; Artist Selection; Marketing & Social Media; Public Relations; Website Development;

CERAMICS SPECIALIST, CLIFTON HIGH SCHOOL; BRISTOL 2013-2016

Managing Ceramics Studio & Kiln Room; Teaching Ceramics Club (ages 10-18yrs); Art Technician Duties; Curation Support to Head of Art; Facilitating Whole School Art Events; Invigilation Duties; Preparing End of Year Art Displays.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2026

Royal Society of British Artists Annual Exhibition, Mall Galleries, London

'Wildwood Exhibition', Sanctuary Gallery, Gloucestershire

'The Colours Of Our Country' Exhibition, Graystone Gallery, Edinburgh

Potfest Shaftsbury & Celebrating Ceramics, Waterperry Gardens, Oxford

'Conceal/Reveal' Exhibition, Atkinson Gallery, Street, Somerset

'Beyond Horizons' Sculpture Exhibition, Stoberry Park Gardens, Wells

'Translators' Exhibition, Graystone Gallery, Edinburgh

2025

'Curious Creative Minds' Exhibition, Holburne Museum, Bath

'Spring into Summer' Exhibition at Heritage Courtyard Studios, Wells

Celebrating Ceramics, Waterperry Gardens, Oxford

The South West Academy of Fine & Applied Arts Open Exhibition, Sidmouth

2024

Thrown, Winter Online Exhibition

FORM24, Sculpture By The Lakes, Dorchester

Fringe Arts Bath, 'Wilderness Commons' & 'Alt Wilderness' Exhibition

Celebrating Ceramics, Waterperry Gardens, Oxford

Art in Clay, Farnham

Selected Earlier Exhibitions

Master in Fine Art (Ceramics) Final Show

Art in Clay, Farnham

Sculpture By The Lakes, 'ARBOR' Workshops

Celebrating Ceramics, Waterperry Gardens

RHS Rosemoor, Group Exhibition

Satori Gallery, Launch Exhibition with Lillian Delevoryas

SELECTED PRESS & RECOGNITION

West Country Potters Association Magazine – Front Cover & Double-Page Feature, Issue 199, Spring 2026

An Art To It Podcast – Episode 47, 30 January 2026

ITV Showcase on 'Love Your Weekend' Alan Titchmarsh Series 2, Episode 3, Spring 2022

BBC2 'The Great British Menu' (Chef Niall Keating Uses My Pond Lily Leaf Dishes for the Semi Finals), Spring 2021

SELECTED WORKSHOP & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

'Come Together And Make' Community Workshop Series Autumn 2026

Artists Crit Group Facilitation, Bath Spa University – quarterly, ongoing

'Soil to Soul' Workshops Collaboration with Susannah Crook, North Somerset, Spring 2026

'Biophilia & Creativity' Workshops, Bath Spa University, 2024

ARBOR: Tree Vessels Workshops Sculpture by the Lakes, 2023