

LUBNA CHOWDHARY (b. 1964, Dodoma, Tanzania)

Lives and works in London, UK.

Born in Tanzania (b. 1964), with Punjabi heritage, Chowdhary moved to England at the age of five with her family. She studied art in Manchester, later moving to London to pursue her graduate education, where the Western art historical canon dominated all critical discourse. She soon found an interest in anthropological museum collections that displayed objects beyond Western historical artifacts and iconography. She often questioned the representation of these handcrafted works, which appeared on muted museum displays outside of their original context and historical narratives. Having a shared sense of cultural in-betweenness with these objects, the artist intuitively followed this awareness, and inspired with her new visual references, navigated her way around the idea of a singular art historical canon.

Chowdhary has sustained an artistic practice that demonstrates an immaculate fluency of craft and skill, with attention to material, volume, and colour. She experiments with ceramics, glazing, and painting surfaces, establishing new relationships with other modes of fabrication to create works that combine disparate forms of knowledge, from industrial machine-made repetition to handmade intuition and a unique outlook at the intersection of Eastern and Western practices.

Chowdhary's idiosyncratic visual language fuses her adopted cultures and varying built surroundings. By adopting machine-made processes and using mass-produced objects in her own artistic production, the artist has developed a way to work with material that is removed from social or cultural references. This method further enables her to move away from manual work associated with domestic or traditional crafts. Chowdhary mines the customs and rituals that have evolved out of this setting: from arranging overlapping palm fronds that created the dining surface for the gathering, to the use of overlapping carpets and textiles that eventually replaced the fronds.

Lubna Chowdhary is an artist exploring the intersections of culture, identity, and personal and collective histories through traditional and industrial processes. She received her BA from Manchester Metropolitan University in 1988, and MA from the Royal College of Art, London, in 1991. She received The Sir Eduardo Paolozzi Travel Award in 1990 and has since received three Arts Council England Awards. Her work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions, most recently at Hayward Gallery London; MIMA, Middlesbrough, England; Peer, London; Frieze London; SCVA Norwich; M+ Museum, Hong Kong; Art Gallery of New South Wales; Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai; ICA, Milano; Kochi Muziris Biennale; Manchester Art Gallery. Chowdhary's work is included in the public collections of The Government Art Collection; Art Gallery of New South Wales; Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery; Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai; Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi; Leicester City Museum; M+ Museum, Hong Kong; Mead Gallery, Warwick; Nottingham Castle Museum; Oldham Art Gallery; Poole Museum; SCVA Norwich; and Ishara Foundation Dubai. Chowdhary's work is included in the public collections of Tate, London; The Government Art Collection; Art Gallery of New South Wales; Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery; Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai; Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi; Leicester City Museum; M+ Museum, Hong Kong; Mead Gallery, Warwick; Nottingham Castle Museum; Oldham Art Gallery; Poole Museum; SCVA Norwich; and Ishara Foundation Dubai.

EDUCATION

- 1991 M.A. in Ceramics from the Royal College of Art, London, UK
- 1988 B.A. in 3-Dimensional Design from Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Dhora Shoor*, Corvi Mora, London, UK
Double Consciousness, Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai, India
- 2024 *Pluriverse*, Graves Gallery, Sheffield Museums, Sheffield, UK
- 2023 *Disjunctions*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
- 2022 *Erratics*, MIMA Middlesborough, Middlesborough, UK
- 2021 *Erratics*, Peer Gallery, London, UK
Code Switch, Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai, India
- 2019 *Certain Times*, Art Basel with Jhaveri Contemporary, HK
- 2003 *Metropolis*, Phillips Gallery, Walton on Thames, UK
- 1999 Millais Gallery, Southampton UK
- 1998 *Udstillingsted* for Ny Ceramic, Copenhagen, Denmark
Foyer, Angel Row Gallery, Nottingham, UK
Oldham Art Gallery, Lancashire, UK
- 1996 Clara Scremini Gallery, Paris, France
- 1995 *Metropolis*, The Pearoom, Lincoln, UK
- 1994 *Metropolis*, City Art Gallery, Leicester, UK
- 1993 *NeoGeo*, Commonwealth Institute, London, UK

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *British Art Show 10: A Chorus of Strangers*, Mead Gallery, Coventry, UK
Déjà Vu, Concrete, Dubai, UAE
Move, Pause, Return, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
- 2025 *Material Affinities and Tropical Dreams*, Almeida & Dale, São Paulo, Brazil
Geometric Abstraction, Theochakris Foundation, Athens, Greece
Ways of Making, Ways of Thinking, Cristea Roberts Gallery, London, UK
Goodwood Art Foundation, Chichester, UK
Horizons, Jhaveri Contemporary at Frieze No.9 Cork Street, London, UK
It Must Be Seen, Fundación Juan March, Madrid, Spain
Colour, Tristan Hoare Gallery, London, UK
Contour Lines, Sid Motion Gallery, London, UK
- 2024 *Still Dancing*, Ingleby Gallery, UK Drawing Biennale, Edinburgh, UK
Making Worlds, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
We Saw an Endless Cycle, Hayy Jameel, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Right Foot First, Hampi Art Labs, Hampi, India
- 2023 *Beyond the Page*, Milton Keynes Art Gallery, Milton Keynes, UK
Interflow, Pillar Corrias Gallery, London, UK
A Tall Order, Touchstones Rochdale, Rochdale, UK
Strange Clay, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
Abstract Colour, Marlborough Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 *Pop South Asia*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
- 2021 *The Dream of the Museum*, M+, Hong Kong
Rhythm and Geometry, Sainsbury's Centre for the Visual Arts, Norfolk, UK
- 2020 *Some Mysterious Process*, NSW Art Gallery, Sydney, Australia
Crafting Geometry, Sotheby's, New York, USA
Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Metropolis, Jameel Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2019 *Toward New Canons*, ICA Milan, Milan, Italy
Auf dem Weg zum Motiv, Galerie Klaus Gerrit Frieze, Berlin, Germany
- 2018 Kochi Biennale, Kochi, India
What's Essential, Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai, India
Speech Acts, Manchester City Art Gallery, Manchester, UK
- 2017 *Mind Forged*, Frestonian Gallery, London, UK
Metropolis, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
Windows, Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai, India
- 2004 *Obsession with Details*, Bernadaud Foundation, Limoges, France
Import Export, British Council Touring Exhibition
- 2002 *Acknowledged Sources*, Hastings Museum, Hastings, UK
- 2001 *Jerwood Applied Arts Prize*, London, UK

COLLECTIONS

Abingdon Museum, Oxfordshire
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
Collection Cartwright Hall, Bradford
Collection MIMA
Fiorucci Foundation, Italy Gallery
Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Ishara Art Foundation, Dubai
Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai
Kiran Nadar Museum, New Delhi
Leicester City Museum
Mead Gallery, Warwick
Middlesbrough Art Gallery
M+ Gallery
Nottingham Castle Museum
Oldham Museum & Art Gallery
Poole Museum, Dorset
Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich
Tate, London
Touchstones, Rochdale
University of Warwick Arts

PUBLICATIONS

2025 *Strange Clay*, Hayward Gallery Publications
2023 *Beyond the Page*, MK Museum. ISBN: 978-1-7813-0125-8
2021 *Rhythm and Geometry*. Constructivist Art in Britain Since 1951
2020 *50 Years of Art Basel*. JRPI Editions. ISBN:978-3-03764-555-0
2019 *Lubna Chowdhary*. V&A Residency ISBN 978-1-78926-684-9
2009 *Home Grown -The Cultivation of a Neighbourhood*, Oliver Bennet
 Contemporary Ceramics. Emmanuel Cooper, Thames and Hudson
2008 *Breaking the Mould* - New Approaches to Ceramics. Black Dog Publishing
2002 *Urban Futures*. Critical Commentaries on Shaping Cities, Malcom Miles

AWARDS

2021 Arts Council Project Grant
2012 Arts Council Development Award
1999 London Institute Research Award
1998 British Council Exhibitions Grant
1996 London Arts Board Award
1992 Crafts Council Grant
1990 Sir Eduardo Paolozzi Travel Award

RESIDENCIES

2026 Space Studios, Baroda, India
2023 Mahler Lewitt Foundation, Spoleto, Italy
2020 IASPIS, Stockholm, Sweden
2017 Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
1994 Camden Arts Centre, London, UK