

LUBNA CHOWDHARY

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 MA in Ceramics from the Royal College of Art, London
- 1988 BA Hons from Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Goodwood Art Foundation, Chichester, UK
- 2024 *Pluriverse*, Graves Gallery, Sheffield Museums, Sheffield, UK
- 2023 *Disjunctions*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
- 2022 *Erratics*, MIMA Middlesbrough, Middlesbrough, UK
- 2021 *Erratics*, Peer Gallery, London, UK

- 2003 *Code Switch*, Jhaveri Contemporary Mumbai, Mumbai, India
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 The Pearoom, Lincoln, UK
- 1994 *Metropolis*, City Art Gallery, Leicester, UK
- 1993 *NeoGeo*, Commonwealth Institute, London, UK

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Déjà Vu* at Concrete, Al Serkal Avenue, Dubai, UAE
Move, Pause, Return, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
- 2025 *Material Affinities and Tropical Dreams*, Almeida & Dale, São Paulo, Brazil
Ways of Making, Ways of Thinking, Cristea Roberts Gallery, London, UK
Horizons, Jhaveri Contemporary at Frieze No.9 Cork Street, London, UK
It Must Be Seen. The Autonomy of Colour in Abstract Art, Fundacion Juan March, Madrid, Spain
Colour, Tristan Hoare Gallery, London, UK
- 2024 *Making Worlds*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
We saw an endless cycle, Hayy Jameel, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Still Dancing, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Drawing Biennale, Drawing Room, London, UK
Right Foot First, Hampi Art Labs, Hampi, India
- 2023 *Abstract Colour*, Marlborough Gallery, London, UK
A Tall Order, Touchstones Rochdale, Rochdale, UK
Interflow, Pilar Corrias Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 David & Yuko Juda Foundation Award, Annelly Juda Fine Art, London, UK
Strange Clay, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
Pop South Asia, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
- 2021 *The Dream of the Museum*, M+ Hong Kong, China
Rhythm and Geometry, Norfolk, Sainsbury's Centre for the Visual Arts, UK
- 2020 *Some Mysterious Process*, Art Gallery NSW Sydney, Australia
Crafting Geometry, Sothebys, New York, USA
Group Show, Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2019 *Towards New Canons*, ICA Milan, Milan, Italy
Auf dem Weg zum Motiv, Galerie Klaus Gerrit Friese, 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
- 2014 *Selected by*, Limoncello Gallery, London, UK
Design Days Dubai, UAE
- 2012 *Simply by Hand*, Pewabic Arts, Detroit, USA
- 2011 *Collect*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 2007 *Urban Field*, Devon Guild, Devon, UK
- 2005 *The Beautiful Script*, Trumans Brewery, London, UK
Import Export, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
- 2004 *Obsession with Detail*, Foundation Bernadaud, Limoges, France
Import Export, British Council Touring Exhibition
Inside Outside, Contemporary Applied Arts London, London, UK
- 2003 *Open*, Triangle Gallery, London, UK
- 2002 *Pattern*, Crafts Council, London, UK

2001 *Acknowledged Sources*, Hastings Museum, Sussex, UK
Jerwood Applied Arts Prize, Crafts Council, London, UK

COLLECTIONS

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

PUBLICATIONS

2022 *Strange Clay*. Ceramics in Contemporary Art. Hayward Gallery
2021 *Rhythm and Geometry*. Constructivist Art in Britain Since 1951
2019 *50 Years of Art Basel*. JRP| Editions. ISBN:978-3-03764-555-0
2018 *Lubna Chowdhary*. V&A Residency ISBN 978-1-78926-684-9
2009 *Home Grown - The Cultivation of a Neighbourhood*, Oliver Bennet
2009 *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, Routledge
2001 *Beyond Frontiers*. Amal Ghosh and Juginder Lamba

AWARDS

2022 Nominated Paul Hamlyn Award
Nominated Juda Foundation Award
2021 Arts Council England Award
2012 Arts Council England Award
1999 London Institute Research Award
1998 British Council Exhibitions Grant
1996 London Arts Board Award
1992 Crafts Council Grant
1990 The Sir Eduardo Paolozzi Travel Award

RESIDENCY

**GALLERY
ISABELLE**
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2023 Mahler & LeWitt Studios Spoleto Umbria Italy
2020 IASPIS Stockholm Sweden
2017 Victoria and Albert Museum
1994 Camden Arts Centre. London