



COURT BARN MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 2009

Guild of Handicraft works with contemporary ceramicist

for the first time in over 100 years

Not since C. R. Ashbee, the founder of the Guild of Handicraft (est.1888) and ceramicist William De Morgan produced a few very special commissions at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has the Guild worked with a contemporary potter.



This autumn AD Antiques, has brought together the highly successful contemporary Ceramic Studio, Dennis Chinaworks, and “Harts” the Guild of Handicraft silversmiths, based in Chipping Campden, to commission an exclusive edition of ceramic ginger jars inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement.

William Hart, whose Great Grandfather was a silversmith with Ashbee’s Guild, is the silversmith for the project. The ceramic jars each have a silver band hand worked with repoussé lettering “Head, Hand and Heart”.

“Head, Hand and Heart” was first used by Charles Voysey (1857-1941) and it later became the motto for the Society of Designers in 1896. These three words are the keys to understanding Arts

and Crafts: 'Head' for creativity and imagination, 'Hand' for skill and craft, 'Heart' for honesty and for love.

Speaking about the piece, Richard Dennis, the eminent author, publisher and dealer comments:

“The Arts and Crafts movement, personified by C. R. Ashbee and the Guild of Handicraft is revered by many - the movement’s influences and the ongoing story are very much with us. Today Harts silversmiths are a direct link ....and now with Dennis Chinaworks, a Pottery in rural Somerset, they succeed in marrying the disciplines of handwork in a creative way. The opportunity to work with an Arts and Crafts silversmith is very special and you must judge the results”

For the exhibition AD Antiques has collected over 100 pieces of Fine British Art Pottery and combined with their current stock makes it the most important collection of its type available for sale in the world.

Exhibits include two examples of Rare Birds, 1893, by the Martin Brothers, whose subjects are often grotesque, comical or anthropomorphic.

In addition to this very quirky Pottery, the exhibition includes a good selection of highly decorative items from factories and designers such as William De Morgan, Wedgwood, William

Moorcroft and Pilkington’s Royal Lancastrian. Many of the factories represented received Royal warrants at the time of their production and were retailed by the cutting edge department stores of the day such as Liberty’s and Tiffany’s.



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## CONTACTS

The *Selling Exhibition of British Art Pottery 1870 – 2009* runs from 4th – 11th October 2009 at Court Barn Museum, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire. GL55 6JE

Entrance to the Selling Exhibition is free of charge; usual entrance charges to the museum apply.

For information about Court Barn Museum please contact Carole Reynolds, Administrator: admin@courtbarn.org.uk and 01386 841951. [www.courtbarn.org.uk](http://www.courtbarn.org.uk)

### Notes to editors:

#### COURT BARN MUSEUM

##### 1. How to find us

Court Barn Museum, Church Street, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6JE

##### 2. Admission charges

Adults £3.75; Concessions (students, senior citizens) £3.00; Children under 16 are free

##### 3. Opening times

April - September: Tuesday - Saturday 10.30 - 5.30, Sunday 11.30 - 5.30

October - March: Tuesday - Saturday 11.00 - 4.00 Sunday 11.30 - 4.00

Closed Mondays (except Bank Holidays) and Closed 24 Dec - 1 Jan inclusive

##### 4. About Court Barn Museum

Court Barn Museum is an independent museum and the brainchild of a group of local enthusiasts called the Guild of Handicraft Trust. The museum was created through the generous support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and monies raised by the Guild of Handicraft Trust.

This groundbreaking museum, situated in the Cotswold town of Chipping Campden, tells the story of how a small town, in a beautiful setting, became a gathering place for creative people at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and continues to attract designers and makers today. Highlights include work by C.R.Ashbee, F.L Griggs and Katharine Adams.

##### 5. About AD Antiques

AD Antiques was formed in 1997 by Alison Davey. She was joined by George Kingham in 2003. It is their combined experience, stock and knowledge that has allowed AD antiques to flourish into an established and well regarded business exhibiting at the UK's leading antiques fairs and selling some of the finest examples of British Art Pottery.

[www.adantiques.com](http://www.adantiques.com)

##### 6. About Chinaworks Pottery

Founded in 1993 by Sally and Richard Dennis, the Dennis Chinaworks pottery is run from the converted stables of a Victorian Gothic rectory in Somerset, England.

[www.dennischinaworks.com](http://www.dennischinaworks.com)