

Kettle's Yard Presents: Artists Buttons

AI WEIWEI

JONATHAN ANDERSON

RANA BEGUM

EDMUND DE WAAL

ANTONY GORMLEY

CALLUM INNES

JENNIFER LEE

CORNELIA PARKER

VICKEN PARSONS

CAROLINE WALKER



Artists Buttons, Edmund de Waal.

Kettle's Yard is delighted to announce the launch of *Artists Buttons* on 11 October 2023.

Ten leading artists, including sculptor Antony Gormley, fashion designer Jonathan Anderson, painter Caroline Walker and ceramicist Jennifer Lee, are creating limited edition sets of buttons, in support of Kettle's Yard. An exhibition of *Artists Buttons* will go on display at LOEWE's flagship London store from 11 October – 15 October 2023, and will be available for purchase at the Kettle's Yard shop and online.

The project draws inspiration from the exhibition, 'Lucie Rie: The Adventure of Pottery', recently at Kettle's Yard and from 14 July 2023 – 7 January 2024 at the Holburne Museum in Bath. In 1938, Lucie Rie fled her home in Vienna for London to escape the Nazi persecution of Jewish people. During the war, unable to get a licence to make pots, Rie turned to making ceramic buttons for the fashion industry, experimenting on a miniature scale with new forms and coloured glazes.

Similarly exploring different materials and techniques, each *Artists Buttons* contributor is bringing their own style and approach to making buttons.

Edmund de Waal's white porcelain buttons, with gold leaf on the reverse, will be inscribed with Lucie Rie's name and her home addresses in Vienna and London, alluding to the importance of both cities during her remarkable life.

Ai Weiwei will recreate the mass-produced buttons found on the uniforms of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in gold-plated sterling silver.

Each of Antony Gormley's black porcelain buttons will be hand-made by the artist and bear the trace of his fingerprint.

Cornelia Parker will transform her button cards into battlegrounds, creating violent encounters between vintage lead soldiers which are sewn onto each card with blood-like red thread.

Jennifer Lee's hand-crafted buttons will use her unique method of mixing metallic oxides into the clay to create subtle strands of colour.

The form of Callum Innes's buttons will draw inspiration from objects in his home and studio including the thumb aperture of a wooden artist's palette and a 4,000-year-old Persian sculpture.

Rana Begum, who will be working in ceramics for the first time, will demonstrate her enduring interest in geometric patterns with a series of two-toned porcelain buttons.

Leaf-like forms in clay, each one unique, Vicken Parsons's buttons will be engobed in a vibrant ultramarine.

**For further information
and images**

Please contact Helen Dickman
press@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk

Kettle's Yard

T. +44 (0)1223 748 100 F.
+44 (0)1223 324 377
kettlesyard.co.uk

A Practice for Everyday Life

LOEWE



Artists Buttons, Jennifer Lee.



Artists Buttons, Rana Begum.



Artists Buttons, Edmund de Waal.

Currently based in Scotland, painter Caroline Walker will use white porcelain button forms as her canvas, individually painting each one to give the illusion of classic tortoiseshell buttons.

Jonathan Anderson will create special pigeon-themed buttons.

Each artist's buttons will be hand sewn in groups or individually onto a limited edition of A5 button cards. Each card will be numbered, dated and signed by the artist and presented in a bespoke box designed by A Practice for Everyday Life.

All proceeds from the sale of *Artists Buttons* will support the new Jim and Helen Ede Fund, a five-year initiative that aims to increase Kettle's Yard's endowment and enable further engagement with artists, local communities and young people.

Two satellite displays will be on show at Kettle's Yard until December 2023, featuring Cornelia Parker's photographic series *Verso* (2016), which focuses on the stitching patterns on the back of button cards, and a selection of remarkable historic Chinese buttons from Ai Weiwei's personal collection.

Artists Buttons is curated by Andrew Nairne and Naomi Polonsky with production support from ceramicists Katharina Klug, Helen Johannessen, Lucy Duncie and David Stonehouse. The identity and packaging design has been supported by A Practice for Everyday Life.

Artists Buttons is supported by LOEWE. A Button Workshop accompanying 'Lucie Rie: The Adventure of Pottery' at Kettle's Yard was supported by the LOEWE Foundation.

All photography: Stephen Bond

For further information and images

Please contact Helen Dickman
press@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk

Kettle's Yard

T. +44 (0)1223 748 100 F.
 +44 (0)1223 324 377
kettlesyard.co.uk

A Practice for Everyday Life

LOEWE

Notes to Editors

For all PRESS enquiries please contact Rees & Co:
Manuela Gressani | manuela.gressani@reesandco.com |
+44 (0)20 3137 8776 | +44 (0)79 8516 6016

About the Jim and Helen Ede Fund

The Jim and Helen Ede Fund is a new five-year campaign to increase the gallery's endowment by £5 million. This will allow Kettle's Yard to endow the post of Senior Curator for the House & Collection, commission artists to make new work each year and strengthen its engagement with local communities, as well as with schools, children and young people. Named after the pioneering founders of Kettle's Yard, the Fund aims to continue their legacy of inspiring young people to look at art and be creative throughout their lives.

www.kettlesyard.co.uk/donate

About Kettle's Yard

Kettle's Yard, part of the University of Cambridge, is a leading gallery and unique house with a remarkable collection of 20th-century art. Its founders Jim and Helen Ede believed in art's ability to transform lives, a vision upheld today through critically acclaimed exhibitions, pioneering community and learning programmes, and research of the highest quality. Our aim is to offer an inspiring and enriching experience for everyone who visits. Find out more and get involved at: www.kettlesyard.co.uk

About The LOEWE FOUNDATION

The LOEWE FOUNDATION was established as a private cultural foundation in 1988 by Enrique Loewe, a fourth-generation member of LOEWE's founding family. Today, under the direction of his daughter Sheila Loewe, the Foundation continues to promote creativity, organise educational programs and protect cultural heritage in the fields of craft, art, design, photography, poetry and dance. The Foundation was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit in the Fine Arts by the Spanish government in 2002.

More information:

web | loewe.com

blog | blogfundacionloewe.es

Instagram | @loewefoundation

About LOEWE & Culture

Culture is at the core of LOEWE's DNA, exemplified by a longstanding commitment to creativity in all forms and disciplines. Reflecting fashion's vital link to contemporary life, a strong emphasis on art, design and craftsmanship has been a cornerstone of creative director Jonathan Anderson's rebuilding of the brand, one of the world's oldest luxury houses. Since Anderson's appointment in 2013, LOEWE has initiated a series of collaborations with artists and artisans who reinterpret and expand the brand's values. Aside from showcasing the many facets of LOEWE, these cultural projects reflect the transfer of knowledge and the cooperative spirit that have been characteristic of LOEWE since it was founded as a collective of leathermakers in 1846.

About A Practice for Everyday Life

A Practice for Everyday Life is a multidisciplinary studio for art direction and graphic design. The practice collaborates with global brands, cultural institutions, and contemporary artists on a diverse range of projects, spanning art direction, brand identity, editorial design, exhibitions, digital and type design. Through dialogue and investigation, they sensitively explore each project's distinctive values to provide meaningful and innovative design for culture and commerce.

<https://appracticeforeverydaylife.com>



Artist Buttons, Jennifer Lee.

**For further information
and images**

Please contact Helen Dickman
press@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk

Kettle's Yard

T. +44 (0)1223 748 100 F.
+44 (0)1223 324 377
kettlesyard.co.uk

A Practice for Everyday Life

LOEWE