

## LUCIE RIE / HANS COPER: LIFE AT THE WHEEL

Offer Waterman, London, 18 September – 31 October 2026



Offer Waterman is delighted to announce the forthcoming exhibition ***Lucie Rie / Hans Coper: Life at the Wheel***, running from 18 September 2026 – 31 October 2026. Featuring over 200 works by these two titans of the ceramic scene, the exhibition – which is free, and open to the public – will be the first major showing of their works side-by-side in London since 1997, and the largest presentation in a commercial gallery setting to date.

*Lucie Rie / Hans Coper: Life at the Wheel* will span the full breadth of both artist's careers, from Rie's early works made after completing her studies at the Kunstgewerbeschule in Vienna, to those made during the decade they spent working together at Albion Mews in London, and later works made by Coper after his move outside of London. The exhibition will showcase the important role that both makers had in shaping public perceptions surrounding ceramics in Britain and beyond, and will include important works from private collections that have not been shown in public in more than forty years.

Few artists have had such a profound impact on a specific field as Rie and Coper in contemporary studio ceramics. As Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth pioneered with direct carving, and Ben Nicholson with pure abstraction, Rie and Coper trod a new path and, in doing so, irrevocably shaped the future of pottery with their elegantly thrown earthenware, stoneware and porcelain forms. Arranged chronologically across four gallery spaces, *Lucie Rie / Hans Coper: Life at the Wheel* will open with an exploration of Rie's work made in Vienna, including the exceptionally rare earthenware teapot made for architect and designer Ernst Plischke (1928), and the colourfully glazed pots that the artist packed in her suitcase when fleeing the country in 1938. A selection of buttons, brooches and jewellery made in the 1940s will also demonstrate the breadth of Rie's creative output during and immediately after the Second World War in London.

Rie first met Coper in London in 1946, employing him as a young studio assistant before they became close friends and collaborators. The exhibition will feature works made by both artists in the 1950s and 1960s, including the functional homewares that were often sold to department stores such as Heal's in London and Bonnier's in New York.

The exhibition will include further important works, such as Rie's *Monumental Vase*, made in 1969 and standing at over 68cm tall, as well as an important group of Coper's 'Cycladic' forms from the 1970s, made shortly before his death. Rie's *Vase from the 'Black Firing'* (1981) – which

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will be exhibited publicly for the first time – was considered by the artist to be a forewarning of Coper's death. Opening her kiln in May 1981, Rie noticed that each of her pots were mysteriously black, and knowing that Coper was ill, she rushed to his bedside where she stayed until a few days before his death.

*Lucie Rie / Hans Coper: Life at the Wheel* will conclude with many of Rie's most iconic pieces, including a series of vibrant footed bowls with lustrous bronzed rims. Together, the more than 200 works in the exhibition will contextualise the careers of both artists within the broader art scene of the 20th century, celebrating their individual achievements, influence over one another, and their undeniable impact upon British studio pottery.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a newly published catalogue, with texts by Tanya Harrod, Nigel Wood, Nigel Slater, Robin Cawdron-Stewart and Edmund de Waal.



## FOR PRESS ENQUIRIES

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## ABOUT OFFER WATERMAN

Offer Waterman opened his first gallery in Chelsea, London in 1996. Now based in a five-storey Georgian building in the heart of Mayfair, the gallery has developed an international reputation for its exceptional 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century British and Contemporary Art. Recent exhibitions include *Frank Auerbach: Portraits of London* (2024), the first survey dedicated to the artist's London landscapes; *On Foot: An Exhibition Curated by Jonathan Anderson* (2023), *William Turnbull: Centenary Exhibition* (2022), *David Hockney: Early Drawings* (2015) & *Frank Auerbach: Early Works* (2012). Offer Waterman participates in many of the leading international art fairs, including Frieze Masters, London, Art Basel, Basel & TEFAF New York, where in 2024 their presentation was dedicated solely to the work of Lucie Rie, Magdalene Odundo & Jennifer Lee.

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