

Gallery

Our pick of the top current shows

Zen brilliance

45 Southside in Plymouth showcases bold abstract work by studio potter John Pollex. This solo exhibition consists of recent work by the potter, revealing how he references visual aspects of Buddhism – in particular the immediacy of brushstrokes in Zen calligraphy – to form intense, painterly pieces. Pollex, who studied at Sir John Cass in Whitechapel and was a technician at Harrow College of Art early in his career, has had his work exhibited across the world.

23 April–31 May; 45southside.co.uk



Heading to Japan

View a rich range of ceramic work by Midori Takaki in her solo show at Silver Shell, Tokyo, this spring. The artist, who seeks to capture floating thoughts through her dreamy figural stoneware pieces, is showing work in the country for the first time, having begun working in clay in the UK. 17 May–3 June; silver-shell.sakura.ne.jp. Find Takaki, whose *Angel* is pictured left, at *Ceramic Art London*, 8–10 April.



Clay concepts

Alphabet aerobics is the name of Swedish-Chilean artist Anton Alvarez's new installation, currently at The National Centre for Craft and Design, Lincolnshire. Traditionally associated with furniture, Alvarez is using clay as his medium for the first time, querying the line between conceptual art and craft to challenge our preconceptions of making. Each day a new sculpture will be created, with clay being extruded by machine, forming an alphabet of works. Until 5 June; nationalcraftanddesign.org.uk



Momentum and repetition

A series of seven paintings by Bryan Illsley are joined by the work of his 'company limited' – ceramic artists Nao Matsunaga, Robert Marsden and Alison Britton – in this Marsden Woo show. Selected pieces by each artist will stand amid Illsley's monochromatic *Timepieces*, which are robust and stripped-back, made up of dots and lines. He was based in St Ives early in his career, where alongside his own studio practice he worked at the Leach Pottery. 18 May–4 June; marsdenwoo.com

Frosted and flecked

Bath Contemporary presents new work by South Wales-based ceramist Peter Wills, inspired by the tidal activity along the rugged Pembrokeshire coastline. Wills, who draws inspiration 'from simple things', has been developing his approach, adding grog to porcelain vessels (see a large shallow bowl, right), producing work of balance and depth of detail. *Voyage* runs until 2 May; bathcontemporary.com

