

25 MARCH - 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

 **BREAK THE
MOULD**



**ANGELA
DE LA CRUZ** 
UPRIGHT



IKON

BREAK THE MOULD

Carved

HEAVY

Hard hand-built fragile

Smooth Melting

Rough Soft

delicate

Which words best describe the clay artworks at Ikon?

Clay has been used by humans for **tens of thousands** of years. It is used to make **functional** and **decorative** objects and as a building material.



This pot, called the 'Deritend Jug' was discovered in Birmingham.

It was made in Medieval times, probably using clay dug straight from the River Rea.

You can see it on display at the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.



Create your own design for the Deritend Jug.

How is pottery made?

Earth



Water



Air



Fire



Clay is dug from the **earth**. Adding **water** helps to make it softer and mouldable. Once it has been shaped, then dried in the **air** it becomes hard, but very fragile. To strengthen the clay, it is **fired** in a special oven called a **kiln**. This transforms the **clay** into **pottery**.

ANGELA DE LA CRUZ: Upright

Angela de la Cruz makes artwork using **found objects** including **furniture**, as well as metal, paint and canvas.

Some artworks are **part-painting, part-sculpture**.

Some of the pieces are held together in such a way that they appear very fragile, or **precarious**.

The artist also makes **strong materials**, like metal, seem **delicate** and **light**.



This sculpture seems to have been **inflated** but it is made from **metal**.



Chairs are meant to be **solid, strong and sturdy** .. how do they look in this sculpture?



Draw your favourite sculpture by Angela de la Cruz



What materials has it been made from?



Ikon Family Activities

Ikon hosts a wide range of creative activities for families, schools and other groups.

Ikon Family Saturdays are free, artist-led sessions for all ages. On the first Saturday of every month, 11am-3pm. No need to book, just drop in!

Free creative sessions also take place during half terms and school holidays.

Visit ikon-gallery.org for the latest events.



Ceramics Studio

Throughout the Spring and Summer, Ikon presents a Ceramics Studio as part of *Break The Mould*.

Three resident artists: **Halima Cassell**, **Jack Ky Tan** and **Roo Dhissou** will be making new work in the gallery.

Visitors are invited to witness making in action and talk to the ceramicists about their practice.

Members of Birmingham's **Sundragon Community Pottery** and **Modern Clay** studio collectives will join Ikon to lead educational sessions for the public and community groups.



Connect with @IkonGallery



Ikon Gallery
1 Oozells Square
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ikon-gallery.org

Open Tuesday – Sunday
11am – 5pm
Free entry
Donations welcome

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COVER

Halima Cassell, *Orchidea* (2023). Image courtesy the artist.

Angela de la Cruz, *Shutter (Red)* (2017). Image courtesy the artist.

Sundragon Potter (2026). Photo by Tod Jones.

INSIDE

Break the Mould. Installation View, Ikon Gallery (2026). Photo by Tom Bird.

Angela de la Cruz, *Reach (Red / Black)* (2002). © Courtesy the artist. Image courtesy the artist and Galerie Thomas Schulte.

Angela de la Cruz, *Bloated III (Blue)* (2012). © Courtesy the artist. Image courtesy the artist and Galerie Thomas Schulte.

Angela de la Cruz, *Upright III (Leg Chair)* (2002). © Courtesy the artist. Image courtesy the artist and Galerie Thomas Schulte.

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Jonathan Wearing

GALERIE THOMAS SCHULTE