



PRESS RELEASE

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Manchester 10-Clay event led by Venture Arts learning disabled artists to coincide with the Simplyhealth Great Manchester Run 10k

10 talented learning disabled ceramicists from the Venture Arts studio in Manchester are taking part in a special 10-Clay ceramics event in the run-up to the Simplyhealth Great Manchester Run 10k. The participants will each create a souvenir cup that will symbolise celebration and 'cheers', inspired by their team mates who will be running their 'arts' out at the Great Manchester Run to raise valuable funds for the Venture Arts charity. The cups will be created in a series of workshops in the studio in Hulme.

Venture Arts is a national leader in visual arts which engage and support people with learning disabilities, giving them opportunities to be recognised in art and culture. As a charity, Venture Arts organises a series of fundraising events each year. This year a team of over 20 runners (participants, volunteers, staff and friends of Venture Arts) will be going the extra mile to run 10k at the Great Manchester Run to raise valuable funds for the charity.

The 10-Clay ceramic event will support the fundraising drive by raising awareness of Venture Arts and its talented participants and put art at the centre of the 10k challenge. Some of the money raised will contribute to materials for the ceramics sessions for 2019. This will help more than 75 people to create and work with clay (30 via the main programme of studio workshops, 25 through the young people's workshops and a further 20 via Venture Arts' schools projects). It is hoped that the wider public will donate to Team Venture Arts via its [BTMyDonate](#) fundraising page.

The individually crafted, one-off, souvenir ceramic cups will create a stunning display (and will be available to buy) at a special event on 23 May to applaud the efforts of the 10-Clay participants and Team Venture Arts runners. In addition, local ceramicists (members of Clay Studio in Hulme and the Manchester Ceramics Collective) are supporting the project by donating handcrafted cups to be exhibited alongside those made by the Venture Arts participants at the celebration event.

Amanda Sutton, Director at Venture Arts said: “Manchester 10-Clay is a great way for more of our participants to get involved in supporting Team Venture Arts as they bravely take on the Great Manchester Run challenge on 19 May. We wanted to widen the 10k experience to our artists that don’t want to run but do want to be part of the fun, whilst raising awareness and much needed funds for our brilliant charity. Right now we are in real need of vital renovations to our art studio and much needed arts equipment.”

Caroline Tattersall, award-winning ceramicist and co-founder of Clay Studio said: “We have a great, long-standing relationship with Venture Arts and we really enjoy supporting their ceramics programme. Their 10-Clay idea is fantastic, and I’m thrilled that Clay Studio is involved in a project that will showcase the talents of the Venture Arts ceramicists.”

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For more information please contact Kate Royle comms@venturearts.org Tel: 0161 232 122 or Kathryn Wolstencroft events@venturearts.org Mobile: 07432 706873.

Notes to Editors:

Venture Arts is a progressive visual arts charity based in Hulme, Manchester. It works alongside learning disabled artists to create and show exciting new collaborative visual art. The organisation’s vision is to see learning disabled people play a valued role within arts and culture as artists, critics, audiences, advocates and workers. It delivers over 1000 visual arts workshops per year working with over 200 people and runs work schemes which help learning disabled people to work and volunteer in cultural and educational environments. Venture Arts showcase the work of its artists locally, nationally and internationally.

Members of the public wishing to donate to Team Venture Arts can do so via BTMyDonate:
<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/ventureartsstaff>

Venture Arts is part of Arts Council England’s National Portfolio and is a cultural partner of Manchester City Council 2018-22.

www.venturearts.org Facebook | www.facebook.com/VentureArtsManchester/
Twitter | [@VentureArts](https://twitter.com/VentureArts) #runyourartout

Clay Studio, founded in 2016, is a community ceramic studio in Hulme, Manchester which runs regular courses and workshops and offers a shared creative workspace for its members – new graduates, hobby ceramicists and experienced makers. The studio also offers a range of classes for students of all abilities. It is based in the same building as Venture Arts, at the Work for Change Cooperative in Hulme.
<https://www.claystudio.co.uk/about>

Manchester Ceramics Collective is a recently formed collective of ceramicists, potters and sculptors who work from a ceramic studio based in Old Trafford. You can view work from their February 2019 launch exhibition here: <https://www.instagram.com/manchesterceramicscollective/>