

SAINSBURY CENTRE

this is one of a
series of resources
looking at different
vessels in the
Sainsbury Centre's
collections

VESSELS

Bottle



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BOTTLE

Start by taking a good look at this vessel. Try to think about it before you read the information about it.
What do you see?



Maybe use these questions to guide you:

- * What does it look like?
- * What is it made from?
- * How do you think it was made?
- * Can you describe it?
- * How old do you think it is?
- * Where do you think it was made?
- * How many 3D shapes or forms can you see in it?
- * How many words can you think of, or write down...?

Perhaps answer these questions or ask your own.
Do this individually, in pairs or groups.
Do you agree with the others?
What are you most interested in?
What else do you need or want to know?



S.20

Each piece has its Accession number near it

Find out more about these vessels online at:

sainsburycentre.ac.uk/art-and-objects



L.24

S.52

Now here are some Facts & Figures:

Title/Description:

Bottle

Artist/Maker:

Lucie Rie (1902-1995)

Date created: **1976**

Production Place: **England**

Materials: **Porcelain**

Measurements:

H. 228 x W. 72 x D. 69 mm

Accession number: **412**

The label text may have some of the answers, but there is so much more to know, to think about, and to understand. Does this extra information change the way you see this bottle?

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POINTS OF INTEREST:



- * Lucie Rie was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1902. She lived and worked there during her early career. In 1938 she fled Nazi-occupied Europe, and moved to London.
- * This bottle is not typical of Lucie Rie's work. Her practice was really varied.
- * David Attenborough describes the massive jars she made as 'big as her kiln' in contrast with her small works which she called her "dumplings".
- * Compare this bottle to other pieces made by Lucie Rie in the same display case at the Sainsbury Centre.

- * In 1946 Lucie Rie hired Hans Coper to help her make ceramic buttons. They became friends and continued to work together for many years. His work is shown in the display case next to hers at the Sainsbury Centre.
- * Notice the similarities and differences in the pieces they made.



Lucie Rie Buttons
Sainsbury Centre
image credit
A Brundrit

Dame Lucie Rie photographed in her London studio in 1989 by Lord Snowdon @ARMSTRONGJONES



- * Lucie Rie loved the colour white. She would regularly dress in elegant white trouser suits as you can see in this photo.



She once had an exhibition in which everything was white.



L. 23

Creative play with ideas:
Our response to an artwork can go beyond the facts.
We can use our imagination, be creative and
play with ideas to decide for ourselves.



L.22



S.56



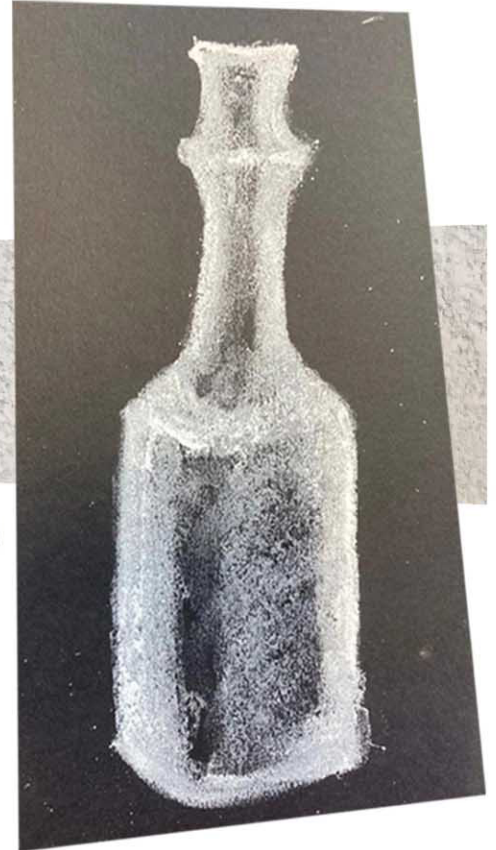
- * What would the bottle feel like to touch, or to hold?
- * Can you imagine it being made from another material? Maybe snow, ice or Kendal mint cake!

- * How heavy could it be?
- * Who might it have belonged to?
- * What might you use it for?
- * What sound do you think it could make?

- * What do you think would be the perfect setting for it? Imagine the room, the shelf, the surroundings...
- * What would you put in it, and why?

- * Could you collect all the white objects you see around you and make an arrangement of them on a white plinth, table, shelf or piece of paper? What happens if you switch the lights off, and use a torch to create shadows?

Now you've explored the bottle in lots of different ways, you may be ready to make something in response. Here are some activities you could try. Some could be done in the gallery, others would need to be in the studio, your classroom, or at home.



* Draw the bottle using chalk, or a white crayon, on black paper. Notice the way the light hits the surface.

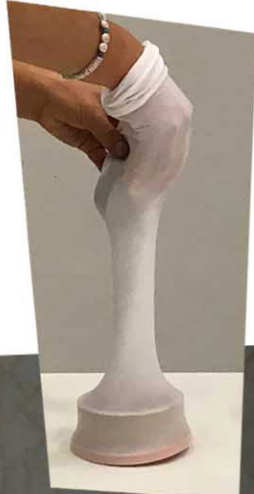
* Perhaps try letting your eyes go out of focus a little to help you to see all the tones.

* Can you make your drawing look really 3-dimensional? Could you add in the setting, for the bottle, that you imagined before?



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* Experiment with a large roll of cotton stockinette (usually used for cleaning) to make human scale vessels. Work in pairs or groups - take it in turns to climb inside, perhaps take other things in to: hula hoops, boxes, or tubes. How many different shapes can you make? Maybe photograph or draw the results. Notice the shadows too.



* Try putting smaller rings, and other objects into smaller stockings or tights.



- * Notice how the fabric helps link the different shapes inside together.
- * Can you make a vessel with the same feel as Lucie Rie's bottle, something quiet and gentle?
- * How tall can you make it?
- * Is it symmetrical?



* Could you fix the shape by dipping it in plaster, wrapping it in mod-roc, or covering it in tissue papier-mâché?

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Sources

Sainsbury Centre online catalogue:

<https://adlib.uea.ac.uk/Details/collect/1443>

Sainsbury Centre collection highlights:

<https://sainsburycentre.ac.uk/art-and-objects/bottle-lucie-rie/>

Frankel, C. (2000)

Modern Pots:

Hans Coper, Lucie Rie & their Contemporaries.

UEA Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts.

Birks, Tony (2009)

Lucie Rie.

Stenlake Publishing.

Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucie_Rie

credits:

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content: **Kate Munro**

editing: **Becca Sturgess**

design: **Annie Brundrit**

photos: **Pete Huggins**

