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*Theatre & Studio*

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## ALCHEMY AND METAMORPHOSIS

**Professor Neil Brownsword**

School of Digital, Technologies and Arts  
Staffordshire University

**8:00 pm on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023**  
**In the Studio Theatre of the Lichfield Garrick**

Neil Brownsword is an artist, researcher and educator. His research into the legacy of deindustrialisation in relation to North Staffordshire's ceramic industry has had national and international cultural impact, through reactivating associated post-industrial spaces and endangered industrial crafts. He began his career in ceramics in the mid 1980's apprenticed at the Wedgwood factory as a modeller and designer. Since graduating from the Royal College of Art in 1995, his work has gained national and international acclaim. Alongside an extensive output of national and international exhibitions, Brownsword has worked as an assistant to Sir Eduardo Paolozzi and acted as consultant for BBC4. He has curated projects and exhibitions in collaboration with the British Ceramics Biennial, Sundaymorning@ekwc, Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery and the University of Bergen.

The recovery and analysis of past material culture through a reengagement with archives, obsolete technologies and living testimony has pre-occupied much contemporary art in recent decades. Since 2003, Neil Brownsword's artistic practice has explored a similar sense of historical revisionism, whereby he attempts to reveal and construct new insights into explicit knowledge associated with marginalised industrial crafts. Articulated in response to recent decades of transitions in North Staffordshire's ceramic sector, it raises questions surrounding the value and contemporary relevance of intergenerational skills cultivated by instruction, and how these can be elicited and regenerated into new modes of expression through their transmission and acquisition.

This presentation explores how traditional ceramic craft practices context bound to North Staffordshire and displaced from contemporary production, can be culturally re-evaluated beyond the economics of the factory and perceived stasis of heritage.

For further information, please see our website at [www.LSES.org.uk](http://www.LSES.org.uk)  
Students and Members Free.

Visitors £7.00. Tickets are not issued in advance, please pay at the door.

Members must sign in. Those signing in before 7:50 pm will have precedence over all visitors.

This lecture is expected to finish by 9.30 pm.