

Julia Carter Preston

Ceramics

Beautiful and Useful

Julia Carter Preston was the daughter of artist Edward Carter Preston and had a studio overlooking the Bluecoat garden for many years (where the violin shop now is). She was a ceramicist, creating hundreds of pots, bowls and plates, in a distinctive *s'graffito* style, using nature as her inspiration. Her pieces are intricately designed and beautifully produced, and demonstrate great skill. As well as being works of art, they are also functional objects – they are both aesthetically pleasing and can have a purpose. Artists like Carter Preston show us that beauty can be found in objects we use every day.

Look around your classroom and list the first ten objects you see.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Look closely at these objects and, either on your own or working in small groups, decide if each of them could be called art.

You could ask these questions:

- Did this object require skill to design and make?
- Does this object use colour, pattern or texture?

- Is this object pleasing to look at?
- Does this object make you feel any emotions or thoughts?