

Clarice Cliff

1899 Tunstall, England - 1972 Staffordshire

Ceramic Artist, Designer

Key Facts:

Clarice Cliff born on January 20th 1899 in Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent.

Clarice started work at the age of 13 in 'The Potteries'.

Moved to the AJ Wilkinson's pottery factory in 1916.

Clarice given her own studio. The famous 'Bizarre' wares launched 1927.

She marries her then boss, Colley Shorter, in 1940.

Moves with Colley to Chetwynd House, with its stunning gardens.

The factory continues to produce pottery bearing Clarice's name until 1964.

Following Colley Shorter's death Clarice sells the factory to Midwinter's.

Clarice retires to Chetwynd House.

The first Clarice Cliff exhibition takes place at Brighton in 1972 and Clarice provides comments for the catalogue.

Clarice Cliff dies suddenly at Chetwynd House on 23rd October 1972.

1999 celebrated Worldwide as Clarice's Centenary year.





Summerhouse, 1934 (10")

<https://www.claricecliff.com/museum/469>



In 1928 Cliff produced a simple, hand-painted pattern of crocus flowers in orange, blue and purple. Each flower was composed with upward brush strokes, then green leaves added, by holding the piece upside down and painting thin lines among the flowers. The 'Crocus' pattern was clearly completely hand-painted, which instantly attracted large sales. It became Cliff's signature design. (Victoria and Albert Museum)



Crocus, cream jug, designed by Clarice Cliff, manufactured by Newport Pottery Co. Ltd, 1928, UK. Museum no. CIRC.674-1975. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London



Cliff was given a team of paintresses to work on 'Crocus'. By the late 1920s, amid economic recession, her career was excelling. She and her team were appropriating the Art Deco aesthetic for the domestic setting, creating striking factory ceramics – plates, jugs, teapots, cups and saucers – that were designed to be used in the home.

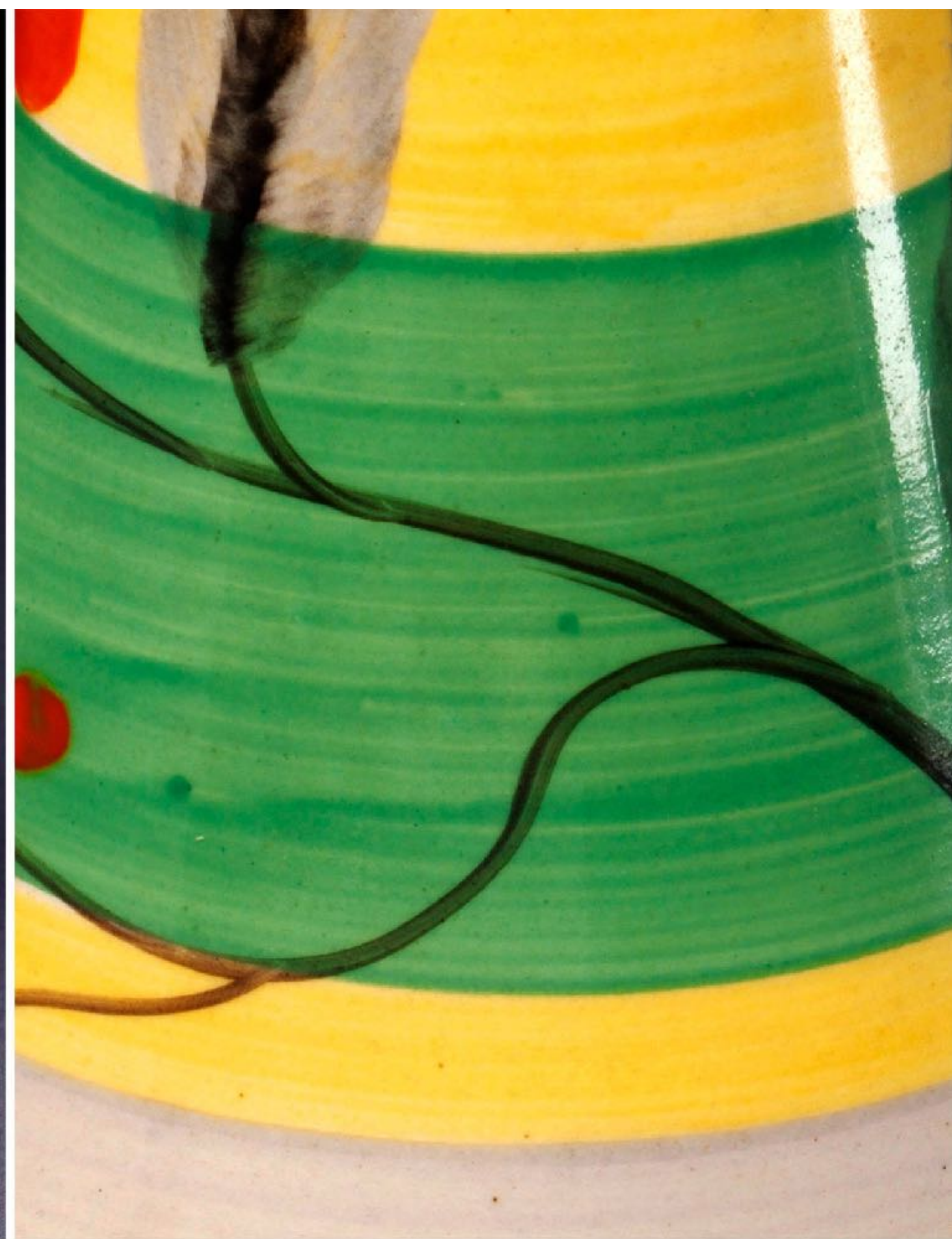
(Victoria and Albert Museum)



Sunray (front and back), vase, designed by Clarice Cliff, manufactured by Newport Pottery Co. Ltd, 1929, UK. Museum no. C.74-1976. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

In the late 1920s, Cliff also began placing emphasis on the shapes of her pottery, finding different ways to best display her designs. From her triangular teacup handles to the distinctive conical form of her sugar casters, she looked again to Art Deco, and its fascination with the geometric rhetoric of Cubist art. (Victoria and Albert Museum)

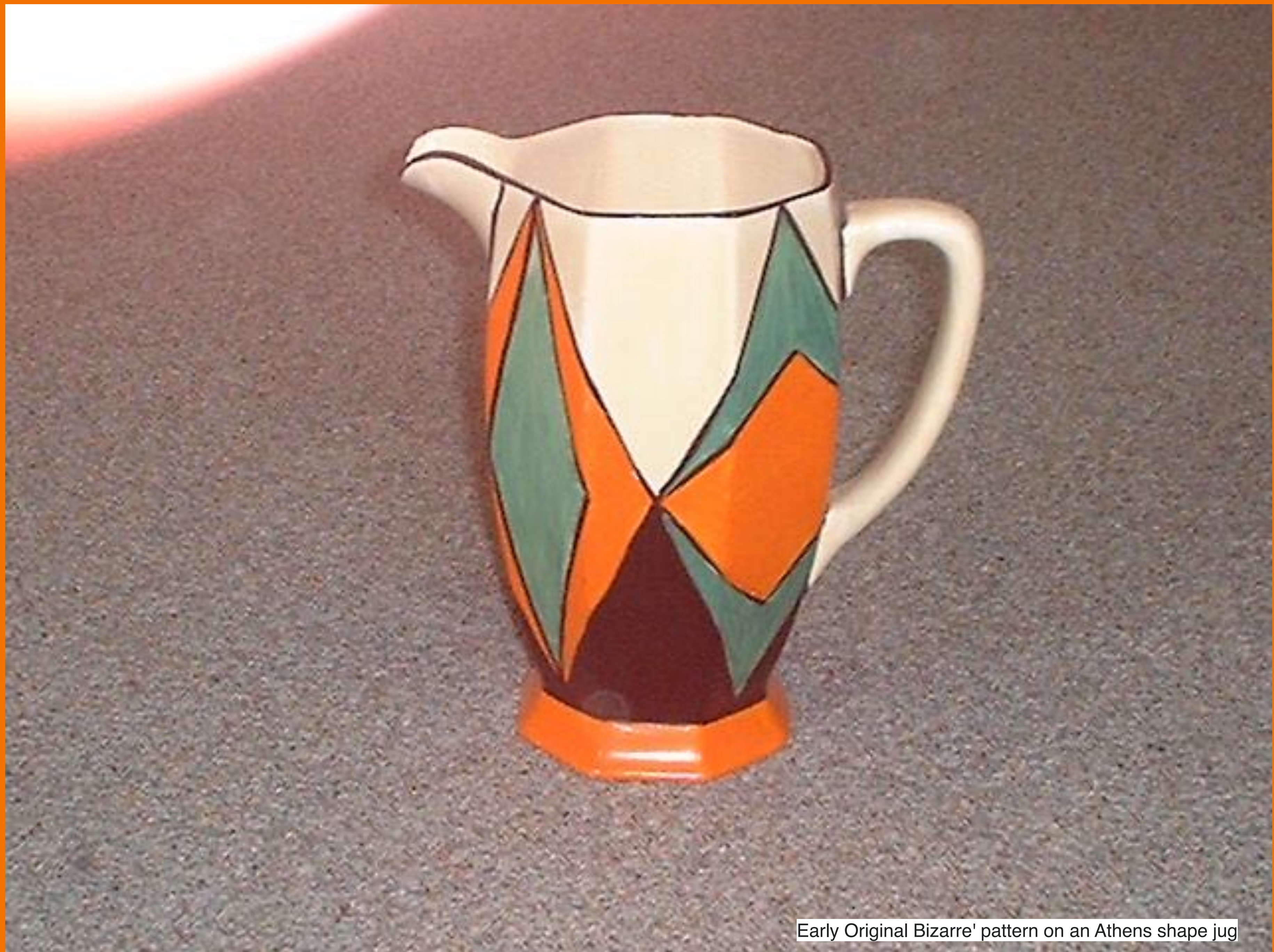




Conical, sugar caster, designed by Clarice Cliff, manufactured by Newport Pottery Co. Ltd, 1936, UK. Museum no. C.100-1988. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London



Tea set. 1929



Early Original Bizarre' pattern on an Athens shape jug



1930 patterns: *Melon* on a shape 14 vase, and *Circle Tree* on an Eton shape coffeepot.



Appliqué Lugano 1930 – 10-inch (250 mm) diameter

1920s

designs inspired by the artwork discovered in Tutankhamen's tomb, which can be fairly said to represent the beginning of the art deco pottery movement.

dragons, birds, and a series of Oriental-inspired patterns

During the late 1930s Carlton Ware introduced a new series of table-ware, with boldly embossed floral and foliage patterns such as fox-glove and anemone. This series continued in unbroken production into the 1960s, although later designs were progressively simplified to reduce the high cost of hand-painting.



Carlton Ware

Industry	Pottery
Founded	1890 as Wiltshaw and Robinson
Founders	James Frederick Wiltshaw, William Herbert Robinson, James Alcock Robinson
Headquarters	Stoke-on-Trent, England

<http://www.carltonwareworld.com/typesoftware.htm>





References:

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/art-deco-clarice-cliff>