

The Rejected, **Eleanor Malam**

Medium: Earthenware Clay

This ceramic vessel 'The Rejected' is an abstract representation of the elements often - or could soon be - rejected from the human body. A combination of visual arts, biology and technological advances were considered while creating this artwork. Elements are rejected for aesthetic and biological reasons - selective breeding of dogs for aesthetics and natural selection are examples of this in today's society. When Humans are put in the place of animals, excess skin, and fat, covered with wrinkles and moles, are elements that could be rejected for aesthetic reasons. There is a belly button on the side, a useless aspect of the body after birth, therefore it is no longer an essential element for human life. The fingernails positioned around the rim of the vessel are no longer necessary to a human in today's world - unlike claws to an animal - and thus could be rejected in the future. This imaginative and abstract ceramic piece was created with slab and hand modelling over a base of newspaper. Earthenware clay was chosen as the material because of its naturally rougher texture, which is used to resemble the texture of skin. Wrinkles were created by carving lines into the original form, and moles and nails were added on top. This ceramic sculpture attempts to make people question the ethics of genetic modification on animals, as well as today's beauty and aesthetic expectations.