



BY APPOINTMENT TO  
H.M. THE QUEEN  
SUPPLIERS OF 19th CENTURY PORCELAINS

# ALBERT AMOR LTD.



## THE CABBAGE LADY

THE WHIMSICAL WORKS OF ANNE GORDON,  
MARCHIONESS OF ABERDEEN (1924-2007)

37 BURY STREET, ST JAMES'S, LONDON SW1Y 6AU



Tuesday 10th May 2022 - Friday 27th May 2022

10.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday  
Saturday and Sunday by appointment

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**WWW.ALBERTAMOR.CO.UK**



## **AN APPRECIATION OF MY MOTHER**

When looking at my mothers work it is worth remembering that the incredible skill she had was the result of decades of extraordinary hard work.

In the 1960's, when she started seriously, she was taught how to use tin glaze majolica on earthenware by Alan Caiger Smith, the renowned potter, with whom she remained close friends all her life. However Alan was working in a completely different field to Mum, so she taught herself ceramic modelling through experimentation.

No-one was more focused or passionate about their work. She would fire her kiln at night because it was on a lower tariff, and that meant getting up through the night to check the temperature. The margin between glowing colours or burnt black was tiny. It took utter dedication.

Almost immediately she had a loyal following, and she insisted on keeping her prices 'reasonable' so that they could carry on buying pieces.

There was never a moment, from the early seventies on, when she didn't have commissions stretching for years forward.

Plus every year there was an exhibition at Mrs Monro's, and then New York, and very often Sydney too. She worked ferociously hard, but somehow managed to also be the most wonderful cook and hostess, and a passionate gardener too.

In every possible way she was the most fabulous woman.

Lady Emma Foale



Anne  
Gordon



## FOREWORD

Our summer exhibition for 2022 marks a new and exciting departure for Albert Amor. For over one hundred years, we have been associated with sourcing and supplying to collectors and museums around the world fine art and antiques, and since our move to 37 Bury Street in 1943, primarily ceramics.

So I would only embark on an exhibition of ceramics created in the last fifty years if I truly believed that the pieces we were to show stand comparison with the wonderful earlier pieces that pass through our hands. That these pieces were made by someone I came to know makes this exhibition even more special for me.

Anne Gordon was born in Windsor in 1924, but a year later, and for the next ten years, her family moved to a tent in the Rhodesian bush, creating a farm. She returned to school in England, close to Longford Castle, her mother's family home. Anne loved horses and drawing, and after the war, she enrolled at the Camberwell School of Art, and amongst her lecturers were Victor Pasmore and Sir Thomas Monnington.

In 1950 she married fellow art student Alastair Gordon, younger brother of the Marquess of Aberdeen. They had three children, and she found time to buy a loom and weave exotic stoles, and illustrate books on ponies.

Her life changed in 1958, when she met fellow Camberwell student Alan Caiger Smith, who taught her about working in terra cotta and tin-glazed earthenware. She began to model by hand all sorts of birds, animals and a great variety of fruits and vegetables. From the 1960's onwards, her reputation grew, and there were regular exhibitions with the decorator Mrs Monro in London, and in New York and Australia. Many of these would lead to special commissions. Collectors of her work at that time included Sir Winston Churchill (who owned a pair of doves), Princess Margaret, Princess Anne, and Ava Gardner.

The works of the Chelsea porcelain factory were always a particular inspiration to Anne, and there were often pages from auction and exhibition catalogues pinned to the walls of her studio, showing a Hans Sloane plate, or a Chelsea tureen. It is remarkable that one person, working entirely alone, could produce to such a high standard an extraordinary variety of forms, all crafted by hand. I well remember being invited to lunch with Anne and Alastair many years ago, where she had used the same skills on the pastry topping for a pie, as on her famous cabbages!



I also remember a conversation, when, rather sadly, she commented that she believed her works would only be taken seriously after her death, and that one day ‘ they will be worth a lot more than now!’ This has certainly come true, and there are devoted collectors of her work around the world, loving to live with the pieces she made, and illustrating how brilliantly they work in a traditional or contemporary setting.

I am hugely grateful to Anne’s family, particularly her daughter Lady Emma Foale, for their help and encouragement with this project. I truly believe, as do they and many others, that she was a remarkable ceramicist, and that the true appreciation of this is just beginning. To hold this exhibition of the work of such a kind and remarkable woman (the largest such exhibition since her death in 2007) I am certain continues the Albert Amor tradition of sourcing ceramics of quality and beauty.

The majority of pieces in the catalogue are available for sale from its publication – those pieces marked English Private Collection have been loaned to us, and are sadly not for sale.

Do please contact me if I can tell you more.

Mark Law

London, April 2022



1.  
A porcelain model of a leek, 7 ¼” long, signed in blue with monogram and dated ‘86



2.  
A porcelain stem of asparagus, 7 ½” long, signed in blue with monogram and dated ‘90



3.  
A porcelain model of a cut lemon, 2 5/8" wide, signed in blue with monogram and dated '86



4.  
A faience model of a pear, modelled with a caterpillar, 7" high, signed in blue with monogram and dated '87





**5.**  
A pair of porcelain models of pineapples, 7" high, signed in blue with monogram and dated '03  
Provenance; English Private Collection



**6.**  
A porcelain model of a long-tailed duck, on oval base, 8" long, signed in blue with monogram and dated '87



**7.**  
A porcelain model of a cabbage, the leaves edged in purple, 9" diameter, signed in black with monogram and dated '95



**8.**  
A porcelain model of a lemon and leaves, 2 ¾" wide, signed in black with monogram and dated '93



9.  
A porcelain group of four strawberries  
and leaves, 2 1/2" high, incised  
monogram and dated '79



10.  
A porcelain model of a  
strawberry, with blossom and  
leaves, 2" high, signed in blue  
with monogram and dated '86



11.  
A pair of faience models of Hoopoes, each perched on a tree-stump,  
on turquoise mound base, 11 1/4" high, signed in manganese with  
monogram and indistinctly dated





**12.**  
A porcelain group of seven cherries,  
suspended from leaves, 6  $\frac{3}{4}$ " high,  
signed in green with monogram and  
dated '79

**13.**  
A porcelain group of five cherries,  
suspended from leaves, 5  $\frac{1}{2}$ " high,  
signed in green with monogram and  
dated '79



**14.**  
A porcelain group of four strawberries, beneath three leaves, on mound base, 4  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide overall,  
signed in black with monogram and dated '81



**15.**  
A porcelain model of a strawberry,  
2" high, signed in black with  
monogram and dated '87



**16.**  
A porcelain model of  
a strawberry, 2" high,  
signed in black with  
monogram and dated  
'87



**17.**  
A porcelain model of a strawberry,  
2 1/4" long, signed in black with  
monogram



**18.**  
A porcelain pod of peas, 6 3/4" long, signed in blue with monogram and dated '88



**19.**  
A pair of faience models of Greenfinches, each perched on a leaf applied mound base, 12 ½” long overall, signed in blue with monogram and dated ‘85



**20.**  
A porcelain model of a tomato, 2 ⅝” high, signed in black with monogram and dated ‘86



**21.**  
A porcelain model of three pods of peas, 6 ½” long, signed in black with monogram, indistinctly dated and with initial ‘K’





22.  
A pair of porcelain models of artichokes, 5 1/4" wide, signed in black with monogram and dated '94





**23.**  
A porcelain model of a tomato, 2 1/8" high, signed in blue with monogram and dated '86



**24.**  
A pair of porcelain models of brightly coloured parrots, each perched on a leaf applied stump, 10" high, signed in blue with monogram and dated '84

Provenance; English Private Collection





**25.**  
A pair of porcelain models of cockatoos, each perched on a leaf applied stump, 13 ¼" high, signed in black with monogram and dated '88

Provenance; English Private Collection



**26.**  
A pair of unusual porcelain short candlesticks, modelled as spreading leaves, and with purple, orange and brown bands to the rims, 3 ¼" high, signed in black with monogram and dated '84



**27.**  
A a porcelain model of a strawberry, resting on a leaf, 3 ½" long, signed in black with monogram and dated '91





**28.**  
A pair of porcelain models of storks, in Chinese Export style, each on oval mound base, 13 ½" high, signed in blue with monogram and dated '80

Provenance; English Private Collection



**29.**  
A porcelain model of an apple, 4" high, signed in blue with monogram and dated '89



**30.**  
A pair of unusual faience models of standing boars, each before an oak tree stump, with acorns, on mound base, 4 ¾" high, signed in manganese with monogram



**31.**  
An unusual porcelain shallow round bowl, with mottled yellow exterior, containing six small mushrooms, 4 ¾" diameter, signed in blue with monogram and dated '90



**32.**  
A pair of faience models of doves, each on turquoise mound base, applied with overlapping leaves, 7" high, signed in manganese with monogram and dated 1969



**33.**  
A pair of faience models of artichokes, 3 ¾", signed in blue with monogram and dated '70





**34.**  
An unusual faience model of a playful spaniel, on green glazed mound base, 7" wide, signed in brown with monogram and dated '70



**35.**  
A pair of porcelain dishes, after Chelsea originals, each in the form of a sunflower, the stalk loop handle with a leaf terminal, 6 3/4" wide, signed in blue with monogram '03



**36.**  
A porcelain group of fifteen stems of asparagus, tied with two purple ribbons, 6  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide, signed with monogram in blue and dated '79



**37.**  
A porcelain model of an artichoke, 6" diameter, signed in black with monogram and dated '92



**38.**  
A pair of porcelain models of red onions, 6 ½" high, each signed in black with monogram and dated '96



**39.**  
A faience model of a dove, the turquoise mound base applied with overlapping leaves, 7" high, signed in manganese with monogram and dated 1969





**40.**  
A pair of faience models of seated cheetahs, each wearing a silvered and gilded collar, on oval 'mosaic' base, 9 1/4" high, signed in black with monogram and dated '83/4

Provenance; English Private Collection



**41.**  
A porcelain bunch of asparagus, tied with a puce ribbon, 6 1/2" high, incised monogram and dated '89



**42.**  
A porcelain model of a cauliflower, 4" diameter, signed in blue with monogram



**43.**  
A porcelain model of a peach, resting on three leaves, 4" wide, signed in blue with monogram and dated '88



**44.**  
A pair of faience large models of cranes, each on leaf modelled base, 15  $\frac{3}{4}$ " high, signed in blue with monogram and dated '88

Provenance; English Private Collection



**45.**  
A pair of porcelain models of variegated tulips, after Chelsea models, each stalk loop handle modelled with leaves, 5  $\frac{1}{4}$ " long, signed in black with monogram and dated '94





**46.**  
An exceptional pair of large cabbage shaped bowls and covers, each with flared rim and cabbage shaped knop, 14 ½" diameter, signed in black with monogram and dated '98

Provenance; English Private Collection



**47.**  
An unusual porcelain small model of a white owl, perched on oak leaf and acorn applied mound base, 4 ½" high, signed in black with monogram and dated '96



**48.**  
An English porcelain plate, finely painted in Chelsea Hans Sloane style, within a green border, 10 ¾" diameter, unmarked

Provenance; English Private Collection



**49.**  
A pair of faience large models of Turtle Doves, each perched on a tree-stump, the stump applied with purple leaves, 11 ¾" high, signed in blue with monogram and dated 1985



**50.**  
A Wedgwood plate, painted in coloured enamels with Auriculas, the shaded green border with purple line rim, 10 ¾" diameter, printed mark in black, and signed with monogram in black and dated '90

Provenance; English Private Collection



**51.**  
A pair of unusual porcelain models of two ponies, one with a foal, each standing before trees, on rounded mound base, 9 ¼" high, incised and painted monograms, dated June 1981 and inscribed 'Patricia Blake'

These groups, a special commission, depict Synod Giggle, foundation mare of the Lippen Stud, West Meon, Hampshire, Pen-Y-Gwn Atomic, and the colt foal Lippens Joker, born 1981





**52.**  
A pencil preparatory drawing for the model of two ponies and a foal, 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 13  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", signed with monogram and dated '81

It is rare for preparatory drawings by Lady Aberdeen to survive



**53.**  
A porcelain large model of a duck, the oval green glazed base with overlapping leaves, 11  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, signed with monogram in blue and dated '84



**54.**  
A porcelain model of a bunch of six cherries, on three pointed leaves, 5 ½" long, signed with monogram in blue and dated 1980



**55.**  
A porcelain model of a cabbage, the leaves edged in pale orange, 9 ½" wide, signed in black with monogram and dated '95



**56.**  
A porcelain model of a mushroom, 2" high, signed in black with monogram and dated '87



**57.**  
A pair of porcelain models of brown onions, each 6 1/4" high, signed in blue with monogram and dated '86





**58.**  
A porcelain model of a cut lemon, 2 ¾" wide, signed in blue with monogram and dated '86



**59.**  
A porcelain model of a pumpkin, modelled with leaves and grapes, 7 ¼" high, unsigned



**60.**  
An unusual pair of porcelain groups of oak leaves and acorns, 6 ¼" wide, signed in brown and blue with monogram and dated '79 and '81

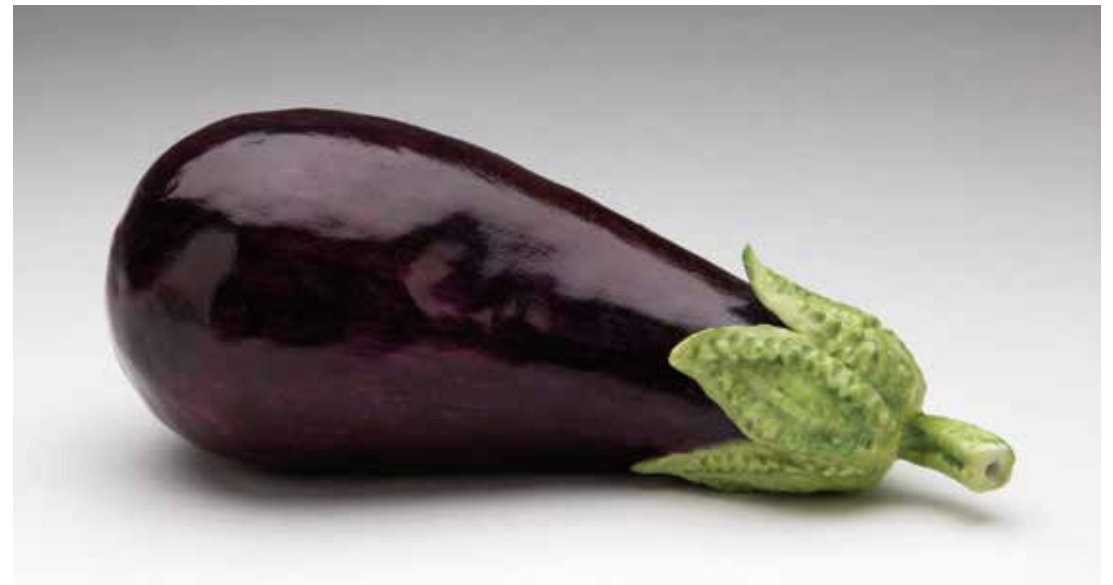


**61.**  
A porcelain model of a cabbage, modelled with two snails and a caterpillar, 8" wide, signed in black with monogram and dated '98

Provenance; English Private Collection



**62.**  
A pair of porcelain models of aubergines, each with stiff green leaves, 4 ¾" long, signed in black with monogram and dated '96



**63.**  
A porcelain model of an aubergine, with deep purple glaze, 6 ½" long, signed in blue with monogram and dated '88

Provenance; English Private Collection





64.  
A porcelain model of a globe artichoke, 4  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter, signed in blue with monogram and dated '90







**65.**  
A pair of porcelain models of hydrangea blossom, applied with blossom, 8 ¾" high, signed in black with monogram and dated '93



**66.**  
A pair of faience models of long tailed birds, each perched on a tree-stump, before leaves, on mound base, 8 ¼" high, signed in black with monogram, dated '81 and inscribed 'Blake'



**67.**  
A porcelain model of a lemon, modelled with blossom and leaves, 3" high, signed in black with monogram and dated '86



**68.**  
A pair of porcelain models of cranes, each standing, on turquoise mound base, 11 1/4" high, signed in blue with monogram and dated '87



**69.** A porcelain model of a peach, resting on two leaves, 4 ½" long, signed in blue with monogram and dated '89



**70.** A porcelain model of an apple, the long stalk with three leaves, 4 ½" high, unsigned





71.  
A porcelain model of an artichoke, 4  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter, signed in black with monogram and dated '91



72.  
A pair of porcelain models of ducks, each on mottled blue base, 10  $\frac{1}{4}$ " high, signed in blue with monogram and dated '87



**73.**  
A pair of porcelain models of brown onions, each 5 1/2" high, signed in black with monogram and dated '98



**74.**  
A porcelain model of a cut melon, the stalk loop handle with leaf terminals, 4 1/4" wide, signed in blue with monogram and dated '80





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