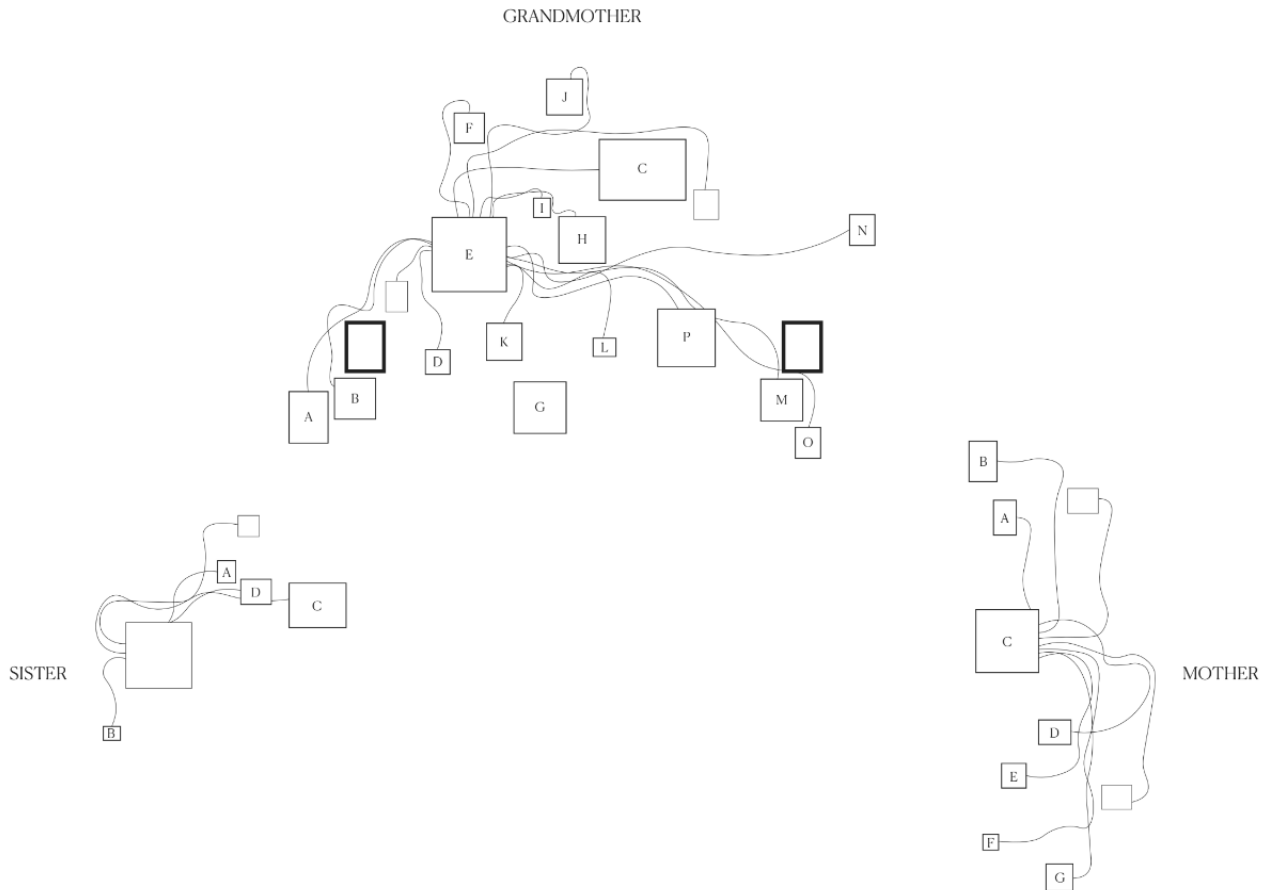


# Oliver Beer

Oliver Beer has a particular interest in the relationship between sound and physical space. Talking about the way in which he makes music with vessels, he points out that ‘you cannot make a container without making a note ... If you whisper different frequencies into it, you can discover and stimulate a musical note that has been ricocheting around in there forever.’ In this acoustic installation, which includes objects scavenged from members of his family, Beer has chosen vessels that recreate the notes of an orchestra tuning up. The installation’s three sections represent his grandmother, mother and sister: their visually disparate possessions, elevated on plinths like objects of devotion, were chosen because musically they are in complete harmony with each other. In Beer’s portrait of his grandmother a First World War German artillery shell, used to store her walking sticks, sings a perfect fifth with the remains of an ancient chimney found in her garden, which in turn chimes in a fifth with her

Japanese rice-cooker. Among the objects representing the artist’s sister is one actual household deity: a ceramic statuette of the protective demon-god Bes, from ancient Egypt.

*Household Gods*  
*(Grandmother, Mother and Sister)*,  
2019  
27 objects from the artist’s collection;  
6 speakers, 33 plinths, audio equipment  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery



## Oliver Beer

*Household Gods (Grandmother)*, 2019  
Dimensions variable.

- A. Misfired Ancient Thai Sawankhalok pot**, c.1350–1500 AD  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- B. German 20cm Feldhowitzer artillery shell**, 1918  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- C. Galvanised steel ventilation shaft**, first half 20th century  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- D. Coffee grinder**, c.1940  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- E. Object origin and date unknown**  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- F. Overpainted Japanese jar**, Edo period c.1800-1820  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- G. Satsuma vase**, Meiji period c.1880  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- H. Water vessel origin unknown**, 20th century  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery

- I. Tea-pot in the shape of an owl**, 20th century  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- J. Lobster cage buoy**, 20th century  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- K. Hinari rice cooker**, 20th century  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- L. Ming horseman**, 1550-1600  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- M. Sims paint thinner**, 20th century.  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- N. Golden hare**, 2002  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- O. Terracotta Etruscan female uterus votive**, 4th century BCE  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- P. Large papier mache vase**, Meiji period 1868- 1912  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery

*Household Gods (Mother, Sister)*, 2019  
Dimensions variable.

### Mother

- A. Egyptian large hand-formed old Kingdom jar**, c. 2686 - 2181 BCE  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- B. Porcelain glazed rooster**, c.1950  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- C. Monogrammed bible cupboard Germany**, 1890-1910  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- D. Gold-plated decorative vase with hand-painted scene**, 19th century  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- E. Blue and white vase**, Guangxu period 1875-1908  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- F. Porcelain glazed rooster**, c.1950  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- G. Silver Mexican double spouted vase**, early 20th century  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery

### Sister

- A. Ptolemaic Egyptian ceramic head of the household deity Bes**, 4th - 2nd century BCE  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- B. Japanese Arita porcelain urinal applied with Amsterdams bont**, first half 18th century  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- C. Silver cloche**, 19th century  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery
- D. Filigrana egg shaped vase**, mid 21st century  
Courtesy the artist and Thaddaeus Ropac gallery