

Press release

October 2014

# Jean Marie Borgeaud

## La terre au corps

MUSÉE ARIANA, FROM OCTOBER 17, 2014 TO APRIL 26, 2015

### Inauguration

Thursday, October 16 at 7 pm in the presence of the artist

**ariana**



musée  
suisse  
de la céramique  
et  
du verre

10, avenue de la Paix

1202 Genève

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PRESS RELEASE

*Geneva, October, 2014 - "Clay is produced by the slow erosion of rocks, since the immemorial and powerful rasp of advancing glaciers compresses even the hardest granite. This powdered stone carried endlessly along by the glacial streams finally sinks to the bottom of the water and into the clear lakes. Fresh clay that has hardened slightly is its finest state: it is its jubilant body." (Jean Marie Borgeaud)*

**If Jean Marie Borgeaud (Geneva, 1954) became interested in the original medium of ceramics, it is because he found two-dimensional painting insufficient to express human subtlety and emotion in all their entirety. For it is indeed people who are central to the artist's intention, in terms of their physicality, but also their philosophy, their emotions and their essential relation to the other.**

This painter, who trained at the Geneva School of Fine Art, has a completely self-taught approach to ceramics and models imposing, slightly larger-than-life figures. With a freedom unhindered by technical constraints, he happily transgresses established rules, wrestling confidently and in an exhilarating way with the material, forcing it to transcend its limits. His fragile sculptures in their green (unfired) state are then moved to the base of a kiln that is subsequently built around them, directly on the ground. Fire, the artist's key partner, is then used to develop the clay, leaving behind in its path smoke marks, scars and some of life's other fractures, which are readily welcomed.

Endlessly seeking to develop his understanding of humanity, of people's emotions, and their breathing, the sculptor uncompromisingly and without any morbid tendency dissects flesh and bone, organs and the skeleton, torsos and heads, men, women and animals, presenting them to us as a mirror of our own entrails. "I see bone as the crystal of humankind: a fantastic mineral structure that grows and develops inside our flesh, just like the crystal in the gigantic folds of rocks. The sensation of the skeleton arouses an awareness in me that generates a deep inwardness, both in my relation to the world and to myself." We are drawn to his skulls with edges softened by a smooth celadon glaze, his twinned heads or his coloured sheep's stomachs by their fundamental aesthetic, which cannot help but awaken our existential anxieties, at the boundary between life and death.

After exploring the smoke firing of clays at low temperatures, Jean Marie Borgeaud turned to stoneware, porcelain and then coloured cast glass, techniques that he developed simultaneously, alternately, without ever abandoning painting. His creativity and his artistic and personal journey are nourished both by Nature, which

is close to his heart and all around him, and by the different cultures, philosophies and forms of spirituality discovered in the course of his travels or through literature. The East plays a key role in his work and he is fascinated by Africa; confrontation with and relation to the other are essential, but it is above all within himself that he seeks that which makes progress possible.

The Musée Ariana has nine of Borgeaud's pieces in its collections, notably one of his first ceramic sculptures, "Man and Fish", acquired in 1996. In 2003, the museum purchased two remarkable examples of the collaboration between Jean Marie Borgeaud and Hugues de Crousaz, for which the former modelled imposing fish placed at the top of recipients turned, enamelled and fired by the latter. A teapot with a cat-like animal drinking from its spout and a "baboon" box from the same series complete this ensemble and were donated by the collector Csaba Gaspar. The latter bequeathed one of his last purchases, a disturbing cracked head with its tongue sticking out (in defiance or from suffocation?). The faithful benefactor Gisèle de Marignac was in turn seduced by a grimacing skull that evokes the Vanities of the Renaissance and by a translucent and subtly marbled head of a woman, which will both be added to our collections.

The Musée Ariana is delighted to devote a major solo exhibition to a local artist whose means of expression is at the same time powerfully original and universal.

### **Catalogue**

Isabelle Naef Galuba, Françoise Clech Chow, Anne-Claire Schumacher, Jean Marie Borgeaud, **Jean Marie Borgeaud. La terre au corps.** Infolio, Gollion, 2014 [ISBN 978-2-88474-742-4] 25 CHF

# Jean Marie Borgeaud

# La terre au corps

MUSÉE ARIANA, FROM OCTOBER 17, 2014 TO APRIL 26, 2015

## RENDEZ-VOUS

### Guided tours

On Sundays 19 October\*, 2 November, 7 December 2014 at 11 a.m. On Sundays 11 January, 1 February\*, 1 March 2015 at 11 a.m.

\*in the presence of the artist

### Storytelling tours

On Sundays 2 November 2014 and 8 March 2015 at 3 p.m.

### Sign language tours

On Sundays 16 November 2014, 18 January and 19 April 2015 at 11 a.m. and on Saturday 21 February at 2 p.m.

### Tours for the visually-impaired

Touch tours of the exhibition (pre-booking necessary)

### Film screening

"100 millions d'années après" (100 million years after), film about the firing of Jean Marie Borgeaud's "Couple" (54') by Enrico Pizzolato and Pius Zoll, screened continuously at the museum on Sundays 19 October 2014, 1 February and 26 April 2015

### Concert

Piano recital by Claude Schaeppi Borgeaud

Works by Ernest Bloch, Zoltán Kodály, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Jean-Philippe Rameau and Andrej Schtogarenko.

Thursday 19 February 2015 at 8 p.m.

25 CHF, concessions 15 CHF (pre-booking necessary)

### Echos de corps (Body Echoes): Dance performance

Dancers from the Catherine Egger studio will explore body-matter through the fire of the energy and the breath that kindles it, the fluidity of the liquids circulating inside us and the spirit of the earth from which we come.

Sunday 1 March 2015 at 3 p.m. (admission free, subject to availability)

### Exhibition closing

Sunday 26 April 2015 at 4.30 p.m. Guided tour of the exhibition in the presence of the artist, followed, at 6 p.m., by a musical performance (admission free, subject to availability)

### Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed Mondays

### Visitor services

Monday to Friday

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T +41 22 418 54 51

[adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch)

### Musée Ariana

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[www.ariana-geneve.ch](http://www.ariana-geneve.ch)

## BIOGRAPHY

Born Geneva 1954

Painter, sculptor and ceramist, lives and works in Presinge (Canton of Geneva)

Has painted since the age of 20 and worked with clay since 1993

1978 Graduated from the École Supérieure d'Art Visuel (ESAV), Geneva, painting section

### Selected exhibitions

2012 *Porcelaine – Faïence – Terre* (collective), Fondation Pierre Gianadda, Martigny (VS)

*Force Tranquille*, Fondation l'Estrée, Ropraz (VD)

2011 *10 x 10* (collective, as part of the exhibition 1001 Bowls), Musée des beaux-arts, La Chaux-de-Fonds (NE)

2009 Galerie 2016, Hauterive (NE)

*Swiss ceramics 1959-2009: Céramique Grand Format* (collective), Fondation Bruckner, Carouge (GE)

*Regard peint – regard sculpté*, Galerie 2016 and Musée d'art et d'histoire (collective), Neuchâtel

2008 *Frontières* (collective), Musée d'art et d'histoire, Neuchâtel

*Six pieds sous terre*, Galerie Forum Meyrin (GE)

2005 Galerie Andata.Ritorno, Geneva

2004 Fondation l'Estrée, Ropraz (VD)

2003 *Théières sous céladon*, Galerie Marianne Brand, Carouge (GE), in collaboration with Hugues de Crousaz

2002 *Terres plurielles et multiples* (collective), Musée de Charmey (FR)

Fondation l'Estrée, Ropraz (VD)

2001 Installation, Halle Nord - Art en Île, Geneva

1998 Galerie 2016, Hauterive (NE)

Galerie Marianne Brand, Carouge (GE)

1996 *Céramiques d'Europe: artistes suisses* (collective), Cordes-sur-Ciel (France)

1995 Galerie Paul Vallotton, Lausanne (VD)

### Residencies

Two creative residencies: Santiago de Cuba, organised by Arcodis and the Fundacion Caguayo

Gorée-Dakar, Senegal, Echange Nord-Sud.

### Public collections

Musée Ariana, Geneva

Fonds d'art contemporain de la Ville de Genève (Contemporary Art Fund of the City of Geneva, FMAC), Genève

Musée de Carouge (GE)

Website : [www.jmborgeaud.ch](http://www.jmborgeaud.ch)

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MUSÉE ARIANA, FROM OCTOBER 17, 2014 TO APRIL 26, 2015

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

#### **Musée Ariana**

Musée suisse de la céramique et du verre

Avenue de la Paix 10 | 1202 Genève

T +41(0)22 418 54 50 - F +41(0)22 418 54 51

[www.ariana-geneve.ch](http://www.ariana-geneve.ch)

Open 10 am – 6 pm

Closed Mondays

Entrance fee (CHF 8.-/CHF 6.-), entrance free till 18 and each first Sunday of each month

The other Sundays : one paid entry = one entry gifted

#### **Press visit on demand**

**Exhibition opening** on Thursday October 16 at 7 pm

#### **Exhibition organisation :**

Isabelle Naef Galuba, director

[isabelle.naef-galuba@ville-ge.ch](mailto:isabelle.naef-galuba@ville-ge.ch)

#### **Curatorship :**

Anne-Claire Schumacher, curator

[anne-claire.schumacher@ville-ge.ch](mailto:anne-claire.schumacher@ville-ge.ch)

#### **Publication :**

Isabelle Naef Galuba, Françoise Clech Chow, Anne-Claire Schumacher, Jean Marie Borgeaud, *Jean Marie Borgeaud.*

*La terre au corps*, Infolio, Gollion, 2014, ISBN 978-2-88474-742-4, 25 CHF

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# Jean Marie Borgeaud

## La terre au corps

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENÈVE | DU 17 OCTOBRE 2014 AU 26 AVRIL 2015

### VISUELS POUR LA PRESSE

**01 Jean Marie Borgeaud** (Genève, 1954)  
***Clotilde*, 1998**

grès, cuisson au bois à basse température

H 180 cm

Collection de l'artiste  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



**02 Jean Marie Borgeaud** (Genève, 1954)  
***Mandula*, 1997**

grès, cuisson au bois à basse température

H 210 cm

Collection de l'artiste  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



**03 Jean Marie Borgeaud (Genève, 1954)**  
***Portrait de l'artiste avec Mandula, 2013***

Collection de l'artiste  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



**04 Jean Marie Borgeaud (Genève, 1954)**  
***Tête, 2007***

grès et porcelaine, couverte céladon

H 28 cm

Collection Musée Ariana, Ville de Genève (Inv. AR 2008-43)  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



**05 Jean Marie Borgeaud (Genève, 1954)**  
***Tête bleue, 2007***

grès, cuisson à basse température, émail mat au cuivre

L 47 cm

Collection Musée Ariana, Ville de Genève (Inv. AR 2008-42)  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



**06 Jean Marie Borgeaud (Genève, 1954)**  
***Têtes, 2006***

grès, cuisson au bois à basse température

H 39 cm

Collection de l'artiste  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



**07 Jean Marie Borgeaud** (Genève, 1954)  
***Crâne*, 2007**

grès et porcelaine, couverte partielle céladon

L 35 cm

Collection Musée Ariana, Ville de Genève (Inv. AR 2008-41)  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



**08 Jean Marie Borgeaud** (Genève, 1954)  
***Crâne-le-rieur*, 2002**

grès et porcelaine, couverte céladon

L 21cm

Propriété de l'artiste  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



**09 Jean Marie Borgeaud** (Genève, 1954)  
***Torse*, 2013**

Grès

H 55 cm

Collection de l'artiste  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



**10 Jean Marie Borgeaud** (Genève, 1954)  
***Pied*, 1998**

grès enfumé

L 38 cm

Collection de l'artiste  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



**11 Jean Marie Borgeaud** (Genève, 1954)  
**Zébu noir, 2011**

terre au manganèse

L 34 cm

Collection de l'artiste  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



**12 Jean Marie Borgeaud** (Genève, 1954)  
**Lièvre, 2013**

pâte de verre au cuivre et cobalt, moulée et modelée

L 73 cm

Collection de l'artiste  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



**13 Jean Marie Borgeaud** (Genève, 1954)  
**Coeur N°2, 2013**

pâte de verre moulée et modelée

L 30 cm

Collection de l'artiste  
Photo : Cyrille Girardet



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