

Presskit
May 2015

Luxury, peace & pleasure swissceramics

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENEVA, FROM MAY 31ST TO NOVEMBER 1ST, 2015

Opening

Saturday May 30, 2015 at 5.30 pm, in the presence of the artists

ariana



musée
suisse
de la céramique
et
du verre

10, avenue de la Paix

1202 Genève

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Un musée

Ville de Genève

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MUSÉE ARIANA, GENEVA, DU MAY 31st MAI AU 1st NOVEMBER 2015

PRESS RELEASE

Geneva, March 2015 - **An exhibition is invented, dreamt up, planned... An exhibition already exists long before the public finds out about it. The one that will be on display from May 30th to November 1st 2015 at the Musée Ariana is the result of a partnership between swissceramics, the professional association of Swiss ceramists, and the Swiss museum of ceramics and glass that is hosting this major project. The two institutions have thus worked together from the start to define a theme and to organise an artistic competition for the association's members. They have, moreover, already cooperated on several joint projects in the past, notably in 2009 for one of swissceramics' jubilee exhibitions devoted on that occasion to young ceramists.**

We desired to give our initial consideration of luxury an enriched poetic dimension, a stimulus for the imagination. Charles Baudelaire's "L'invitation au voyage" (Invitation to a Journey) accordingly gave rise to the thematic trio of luxe, calme et volupté (luxury, peace and pleasure). This subject attracted the attention of seventy artists, motivating them to send us a surprising range of projects, including suspended works, installations, sculptures, figures and recipients, while not forgetting the architectural ceramic projects, thus responding to our invitation in ways that are poetic, critical, cynical, aesthetic, narrative...

Two ceramists who are members of swissceramics, Charlotte Nordin and Violette Fassbaender, two art historians representing the Musée Ariana, including the curator of the exhibition, Anne-Claire Schumacher and Sophie Wirth Brentini, Nicolas Le Moigne, designer and lecturer, the gallery owner Hanspeter Dähler and the artist and lecturer Donatella Bernardi met at the Musée Ariana in November 2014. The jury was therefore representative of the various regions of Switzerland and the different creative worlds of contemporary ceramics.

The discussions were moderated by Isabelle Naef Galuba, art historian and director of the Musée Ariana with additional invaluable comments provided by Lynn Frydman Kuhn, ceramist and member of the swissceramics committee responsible for exhibition projects. Two days of intense debate during which the members of the jury were immersed in the projects' different worlds. Two days of discussions and exchanges of views about personal likes and dislikes and occasional deceptions but always through the exploration of these fascinating creative spheres. The ceramists in the jury contributed their technical expertise, while also considering the proposals from an artistic point of view, the art historians and the gallery owner imparted their knowledge and their particular stance as historians and critics, while Donatella Bernardi and Nicolas Le Moigne opened up the discussions onto considerations related to their respective professional environments.

The jury's final selection comprised 19 artists (15 women and 4 men). To a certain extent, the winning ceramists had to be representative of swissceramics' diverse membership, that is, coming from the various cultural regions of Switzerland or from different backgrounds or generations. The main criteria, however, remained the quality and the innovative nature of the proposals. In general, what emanated from each application was the energy put into its preparation and the complexity of making artistic work compatible with a given theme.

Fearing that the subject of luxury would limit candidates to a certain degree of superficiality, we chose a line by Baudelaire. The poet did indeed transport the artists to far-off places; we couldn't have hoped for better. The poem speaks of travel and exoticism, of material luxury and fantasies – venal or poetic - of life, death and love. The whole can be summed up in these three words: luxury, peace and pleasure. Several artists drew inspiration directly and in formal terms from these three elements, creating forms that are evocative of them (Sonja Duò-Meyer, Grazia Conti-Rossini). Others chose to work on one of the words in particular, whether luxury (Patricia Glave, Caroline Andrin, Laurin Schaub), peace or pleasure (Sybille Meier, Zsuzsanna Füzesy Heierly, Maude Schneider, Müller b, Felix Hug).

Some of the proposals are genuine invitations to a journey, whether terrestrial (Andreas Schneider, Caroline Schmoll, Erika Fankhauser Schürch, Laure Gonthier), geological or extra-terrestrial (Fabien Clerc, Chloe Peytermann). Other ceramists adopted a more narrative approach (Heike Schildhauer, Bianca Bernarda, Christine Aschwanden), by reflecting on 19th century points of view, some of which have become burning topics in the 21st century. Taking inspiration from Baudelaire's "Fleurs du mal" (Flowers of Evil), some of the pieces allow us to discern certain critical connotations of the notions of exoticism, ethnocentrism, our relation to the other and gender relations...

None of the works displayed are literal or scholastic. All are open to multi-level analysis and interpretation, and private or culturally shared references, and each one deserves to be viewed with the same level of interest, the same impatience, the same excitement that we all experienced when we first received the applications.

We are delighted to present these high quality pieces that belong to a resolutely modern context and which show how the field of ceramics is able to position itself with regard to the different vibrant artistic approaches of the contemporary art environment and how new positions and techniques can come to enrich it. On 30 May 2015, the ensemble will spectacularly come to life. Models, projects and sketches will be unveiled in their final completed state at the Musée Ariana, with their voluminous or minute dimensions, their elliptical shapes, their figures, their fine or tortuous materials and their hollow or solid forms in pure luxury, peace and pleasure.

Collaboration with professional training centres

For this exhibition the Musée Ariana is renewing its collaboration with the Swiss ceramic training centres.

CFPAA, the Centre for Professional Training – Applied Arts, ceramics section in Geneva, **CERCCO**, the Experimentation and Research Centre for Contemporary Ceramics at Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD – Geneva), **ESAA**, École supérieure d'arts appliqués in Vevey, ceramics section and the **B : B**, the École d'Arts Visuels Berne et Bienne all responded to our invitation.

A number of pieces related to the given theme were created at each training centre. The students' work will be presented in the "carte blanche" showcase on the first floor of the museum from 30 May to 10 July for the Geneva and Vevey training centres, while the pieces produced at CERCCO will go on display in September.

B : B (the École d'Arts Visuels Berne et Bienne) proposes group work based on a utilitarian object, the stool. This project was made possible by the generous support of **Keramik Laufen SA**, the Swiss industrial ceramics manufacturing company that specialises in ceramic sanitary ware. The five stools resulting from this collaboration will be installed in different places around the museum for the duration of the exhibition.

Sophie Wirth Brentini
Curator

Luxe, calme & volupté swissceramics

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENÈVE, DU 31 MAI AU 1^{ER} NOVEMBRE 2015

RENDEZ-VOUS AU MUSÉE

Conférences

dans le cadre de l'Assemblée générale **swissceramics**

le dimanche 31 mai, de 10 h 30 à 12 h 30

Nicolas Le Moigne : « **Le luxe d'aujourd'hui** » à 10 h 30

Donatella Bernardi : « **Tendre, fragile, inoubliable et insaisissable** » à 11 h 30

Avec le soutien de la Fondation Amaverunt

Visites commentées

Les dimanches

31 mai à 14 heures

21 juin, 6 septembre, 27 septembre (dans le cadre du 14e Parcours Céramique Carougeois),

1^{er} novembre à 11 heures

4 octobre à 15 heures

Visites thématiques

Les dimanches

7 juin et 11 octobre à 15 heures : « **La figure en porcelaine** » avec Sabine Lorenz, historienne

28 juin et 6 septembre à 15 heures : « **Les trompe-l'œil** » avec Rachel Maisonneuve, médiatrice culturelle et plasticienne

Guided tour in English

On Sundays, June 14th at 3 pm, October 11 at 11 am

Ateliers d'été

Animés par Charlotte Nordin, céramiste

Sur inscription

De 9 à 17h

Tarif adultes : 70 CHF

Tarif enfants/réduit : 60 CHF

Enfants : le mercredi 1^{er} juillet

Familles : le vendredi 3 juillet

Adultes : le samedi 4 juillet

Visites commentées pour les groupes, sur demande

Jusqu'à 15 personnes

Plein tarif CHF 150.-

Tarif spécial CHF 75.- pour les institutions à vocation sociale subventionnées par la Ville de Genève

Visites commentées pour les classes

Visites gratuites pour les écoles du Canton de Genève

Réservation au moins 15 jours à l'avance, que ce soit avec guide ou sans guide.

Renseignements et réservations

Accueil des publics

Du lundi au vendredi

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INFORMATIONS PRATIQUES

Vernissage le jeudi 11 juin 2015 à 19 h, en présence de l'artiste

Visite de presse sur demande

Ouvert tous les jours de 10 à 18 heures

Fermé le lundi

Entrée : 8/6 CHF

Entrée libre jusqu'à 18 ans et le premier dimanche du mois;
les autres dimanches, une entrée achetée, une entrée offerte

Catalogue de l'exposition

Luxe, calme & volupté – swissceramics

L'Éclodoir, Thonon, 2015 - ISBN 2-916302-41-7

en vente au Musée au prix de CHF 35.-

Organisation de l'exposition

Isabelle Naef Galuba, directrice

Commissariat de l'exposition

Sophie Wirth Brentini, chargée de projets,

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VISUELS POUR LA PRESSE

01 Laure Gonthier (1983)

Les larmes de Vénus : Marta, 2014

modelage, terre cuite émaillée et flocage
sur plaque de marbre

Propriété de l'artiste

Photo : Pénélope Henriod



02 Andreas Schneider (1948)

Zwölf Inseln, 2014-2015

argile, bois peint

Propriété de l'artiste

Photo : Andreas Schneider



03 Caroline Schmoll (1985)

Somnia et Chimaeram, (détail), 2015

porcelaine

Propriété de l'artiste

Photo : Caroline Schmoll



04 Chloé Peytermann (1982)

***METEORA*, 2014**

bol en céramique, socles en PET thermoformé

Propriété de l'artiste

Photo Philippe Mesnard



05 Grazia Conti Rossini Schifferli (1956)

***Gefässe*, 2014**

porcelaine, tournage

Propriété de l'artiste

Photo : Alex Robert



06 Sybille Meier (1972)

***Sweet dreams*, 2014**

grès émaillé, tournage et modelage

Propriété de l'artiste

Photo : Nepomuk Neunhoeffer.



07 Zsuzsanna Füzesi Heierli (1953)

***Double 3*, 2014**

porcelaine

Propriété de l'artiste

Photo : Bálint Rádóczy



NOTE AUX JOURNALISTES

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