Geneva, October 2016 – A leading figure in Austrian ceramics, Gundi Dietz (born 1942) strives tirelessly to express the complexity and richness of human nature in figurative sculpture. Her figures, often female, but sometimes asexual or from the animal world, stand up straight or recline languorously. Whatever their posture, their gaze is hidden, as though engaged in deep introspection.

Porcelain, and in particular the distinctive fineness and whiteness of Viennese Augarten porcelain, is the ceramist’s preferred medium. The porcelain is first cast in plaster moulds; the moulded form is then “reanimated”, brought to life through the addition here and there of fragments of clothing, markings inscribed on the skin, expression lines, touches of glaze and even of gold. Heads, busts, or full-length figures standing squarely or nonchalantly languid, Gundi Dietz’s sculptures challenge the accepted feminine aesthetic (that is, young, slim and beautiful, or you don’t count!), with no loss of seductive force. The lace underwear, the hats and hairstyles and the gold highlights are all telling. The nudity is never immodest; it allows access to the intimate. Although the vast majority of the figures are female, Gundi Dietz cannot however be categorized – much too narrowly for her – as an “artist of femininity” or, worse still, as a “feminist artist”. For it is indeed human beings in all their diversity, whether male, female or asexual, as well as animals and hybrids, that inspire her imagination and sensitivity. The artist’s field of activity is life itself.

The scale of the works has never hindered the artist, who can move with disarming ease from miniatures to monumental sculptures while still retaining all her expressive force. She sometimes creates the same model in different sizes in her search for the perfect ratio. In parallel, both to overcome the technical limitations of porcelain and to explore the resistance and potential of other materials, Gundi Dietz goes beyond the field of porcelain to embrace earthenware, bronze, aluminium, marble or polymers, while continuing along her chosen path.

Gundi Dietz is a citizen of the world. Through her commitment as a woman and as an artist, she explores more and more deeply what it means to be human, eliminating in the process any superfluous or anecdotal element. Her artistic expression is the story of a life, of her life; it strikes a chord within us and we are moved by its rightness.

This exhibition has been organised in collaboration with Hanspeter Dähler, Kunstforum Gallery Solothurn.

Anne-Claire Schumacher, Exhibition Curator
Gundi Dietz - Essentials

Musée Ariana, Geneva, 14 October 2016 – 26 February 2017

Practical Information

Musée Ariana
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Open Tuesday to Sunday 10.00 – 18.00, closed Mondays
Entrance fee (5 CHF/ 3 CHF), free for under 18s and on the first Sunday of the month
On other Sundays: two for the price of one

Exhibition opening: Thursday 13 October 2016 at 19.00 with the artist in attendance

Press opening: Thursday 13 October 2016 at 14.30
or on request: presse.ariana@ville-ge.ch

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Gundi Dietz - Essentials

Musée Ariana, Geneva, 14 October 2016 – 26 February 2017

Events

Guided tours on Sundays
16 October 2016 at 11.00 (with the artist in attendance)
6 November 2016 and 15 January 2017 at 11.00
4 December 2016 at 15.00

Brunch “Eclairage d’une exposition” / “Shedding Light on an Exhibition”
Sunday 26 February 2017, 11.30 – 13.30
Before and after a brunch offered by the Ecole hôtelière de Genève, pre- and post-refreshment tours based on themes related to the exhibition.
Cost 30 CHF per person, reservation required (25 people maximum)

Workshop
“Qu'est-ce qu'elle a ma tête ?” / “What's up with my face?”
Saturday 18 February 2017, 10.00 – 17.00
Led by Charlotte Nordin, this workshop for adults will focus on expression through the modelling of a head or face.
Reservation required, limited number of places available.
Fee: 70 CHF, reductions: 60 CHF

Guided tour for teachers
Wednesday 19 October 2016, 14.00 – 16.00

Guided tours on request
in French, English and German
Guided tours for classes, please request 15 days before the chosen date

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Press visuals

01  Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)

Armine, 2003
Porcelain
H 35 cm
Private collection
Photo: Verena Menz

02  Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)

Elisa, 2005
Porcelain
H 37 cm
Private collection
Photo: Verena Menz
03  Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)

*Emily*, 2010

Porcelain

H 100 cm

Collection Musée Ariana, Ville de Genève

Photo : Nicolas Lieber

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04  Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)

*Verwandlung*, 2009

Porcelain

H 100 cm

Private collection

Photo : Tina Dietz

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05  Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)

*Affe*, 2015

Porcelain

H 24 cm

Property of the artist

Photo : Tina Dietz
06  Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)

*Stehende / Black Rosy*, 2013

Bronze

H 140 cm

Courtesy Kunstforum Solothurn

Photo: Hanspeter Dähler

07  Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)

*Emily*, 2010 (détail)

Porcelain

H 100 cm

Collection Musée Ariana, Ville de Genève

Photo: Nicolas Lieber

08  Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)

*Nofrene*, 2004

Porcelain

L 45 cm

Private collection

Photo: Verena Menz
09  Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)
Eingeringelte, 2010
Marbre
44 x 31 x 13 cm
Property of the artist
Photo: Tina Dietz

10  Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)
Eingeringelte, 2010
Bronze
44 x 31 x 13 cm
Private collection
Photo: Tina Dietz

11  Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)
Liegende, 2008
Porcelain
L ca. 38 cm
Private collection
Photo: Verena Menz
Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)

**Alfred**, 2015

Porcelain

100 x 45 x 32 cm

Private collection

Photo: Tina Dietz

Gundi Dietz (Austria, 1942)

**Portrait**, 2016

Photo: Tina Dietz

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**NOTE TO JOURNALISTS**

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With thanks,

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**Un musée**

**Ville de Genève**

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