

swiss ceramics 1959-2009: the new generation

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENEVA | 23 APRIL TO 4 OCTOBER 2009

PRESS RELEASE

Geneva, April 2009. – The Musée Ariana joins the 50th anniversary celebrations this year of the Swiss Ceramics Association. Seven young artists, all members of the association and with less than eight years each of ceramic experience, have been selected by a specialised jury. The chosen works illustrate the diversity of the Swiss ceramics scene: containers, sculptures – figurative or not – and installations, the pieces on view are diversified and refreshingly original. These young ceramists, Perrine Durnat, Marianne Eggimann, Maurizio Ferrari, Laure Gonthier, Maude Schneider, Simone Stocker and Ursula Vogel, all learned their skills at the Swiss professional training centres in Bern, Vevey and Geneva.

Choosing the ancient medium of ceramics as a platform for expression at the beginning of the 21st century makes sense, for the creative potential of the craft indubitably remains intact. Stoneware, porcelain or faience: the earth in all its states, with its infinite possibilities and demanding technical constraints, is the object of these young artists' passion and dedication.

Perrine Durnat (1976) transcends the functions of the plate with large, square leaves of white clay covered in downy enamel. Round fruits seem to have settled comfortably on these flat surfaces, leaving behind their imprints. This series of diversely impressed dishes constitutes a sort of spatial set of dominoes.

The imaginary universe of **Marianne Eggimann** (1980) is figurative, abundantly peopled with quirky characters, golden-legged insects and animals inside of glass "snowballs". The sophisticated porcelain and enamel technique employed is in contrast with the artist's caustic vision of the modern world.

Maurizio Ferrari (1970) creates turned porcelain sculptures covered in pastel-hued slip, with surfaces that vibrate from the striations made by meticulous turning. The height of observation changes the profile of the object and therefore the perception of the viewer.

The powerful, organic microcosms of **Laure Gonthier** (1983) are covered with a foliated surface made of numerous plaques of black or white clay, forming a sort of protective skin. These large rocks insert themselves forcefully into space.

With her rainbow collection of miniature parasols, **Maude Schneider** (1980) has prepared an installation that parodies an aerial view of a seaside resort, adhering to its immutable rites and rigid codes, upon which the artist casts a critical eye.

Simone Stocker (1974) remains firmly loyal to the tradition of ceramic tableware that gives pleasure to the senses and enhances the food. Form and function come together in spare and taut pieces, such as these fruit bowls with concentric striations.

Finally, **Ursula Vogel** (1985), the youngest of the group, is fascinated by porcelain's translucent nature, which she has pushed to the limits of physical stability. She then illuminates the interior of her sculptures with the help of coloured sources of light, revealing in this way an original vision of the inside of the pieces.

An interactive multimedia terminal at the public's disposal provides further insights into the artistic approach of the ceramists. A catalogue published by the Swiss Ceramics Association covers the parallel exhibitions at the Musée Ariana, the Château de Nyon and the Fondation Bruckner in Carouge (CHF 25.-).

Other events organized by *swiss ceramics 1959-2009*:

La Suisse en céramique, Château de Nyon, 1st May – 13 September

Retro-Perspective, Galerie de l'Hôtel de Ville, Yverdon-les-Bains, 14 June – 9 August

Vers un ailleurs, Biennale, Basel, 22 August – 13 September

La céramique grand format, Fondation Bruckner, Carouge, 20 September – 4 October

Marché swiss ceramics, Carouge, 19-20 September (in the context of the Parcours Céramique Carougeois)

Exhibition curator: Anne-Claire Schumacher, assistant curator

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Musée Ariana

Avenue de la Paix 10 | 1202 Genève

F +41(0)22 418 54 51

<http://mah.ville-ge.ch>

Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed on Tuesday

Entry free of charge

Preview: 22 April, from 6 p.m.

Exhibition organisation:

Director of the Musées d'Art et d'Histoire: Cäsar Menz

Exhibition curator: Anne-Claire Schumacher, assistant curator at the Musée Ariana

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Reservations:

Guided tours and visits

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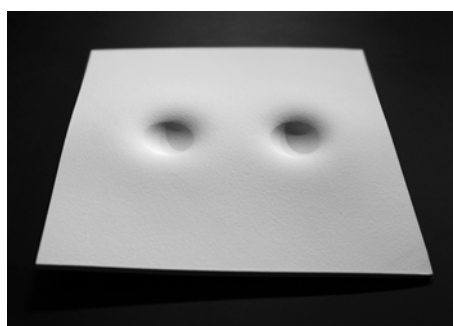
VISUELS POUR LA PRESSE

1 **Perrine Durgnat** (1976)

Le Plat, 2008

Faïence, émail blanc mat
Haut. 50 x larg. 50 cm

© Photo : Audrey Gerber



2 **Maurizio Ferrari** (1970)

Silhouettes, 2008

Porcelaine engobée
Haut. 30 cm, diam. 10 cm env.

© Photo : Maurizio Ferrari



3 **Laure Gonthier** (1983)

Black hiatus, 2007-2008

Grès noir
Haut. entre 15 et 45 cm

© Photo : Laure Gonthier



- 4 **Maude Schneider** (1980)
Rainbow, 2008
Porcelaine teintée
Larg. 45 x long. 640 x haut. 6 cm
© Photo : Maude Schneider



- 5 **Simone Stocker** (1974)
Plat Luso, 2008
Porcelaine
Diam. 20-40 cm
© Photo : Simone Stocker



- 6 **Marianne Eggimann** (1980)
Unglück, 2007
Porcelaine et verre
Haut. 18 cm, diam. 24 cm
© Photo : Jörn Lies



- 7 **Ursula Vogel** (1985)
J'aimerais être un oiseau..., 2009
Porcelaine et grès moulés,
éclairage électrique
Haut. 50 cm, larg. 60 cm
© Photo : Ursula Vogel

