

PRESS KIT



“Earth and Art: Women Ceramicists”

Pacific Palisades - April 25, 2024

A vibrant homage to the creativity and skills of women in the field of ceramics, **“Earth and Art: Women in Ceramics”** is set to captivate art enthusiasts and collectors alike. It will feature 8 women ceramicists, both established or emerging artists. The attendees will have the opportunity to engage with some of them, gaining insights into their inspiration and the stories behind their creations.

Earth Week

The exhibition will take place during **Earth Week**, a nod to the main material in ceramics. The word ceramic itself is derived from the Greek term “keramike” meaning clay. It uses mixtures of earthen elements - clay, powder, water - that can be easily shaped into a desired form and is then fired at high temperature.

Ceramics dates back to the Paleolithic period and spans several millennia. Used for creating practical objects such as vessels as well as well as more sculptural or decorative pieces, it is a timeless medium whose technical and artistic interest has never waned,

quite the contrary. At a time when our need for sustainability, ecology and sobriety is at an all-time high, this not-so-primitive art seems more relevant than ever.

Women Ceramicists

Contemporary ceramics is attracting many women artists.

Though the archeological study of fingermarks left on ancient pottery shows that women and men equally worked the clay, the more recent history of ceramics has long been male-dominated. With the industrialization of work in the 19th and 20th centuries, women joined the workshops and ceramic factories, taking on jobs such as enameling that did not require the use of physical strength. In the 20th century, with the development of art ceramics and a return to the earth, the profession became increasingly feminized with the likes of Guidette Carbonell, Valentine Schlegel, Madonna Jolain, Lucie Rie, Betty Woodman, Kathy Butterfly and many others.

Today, the balance has shifted.

The “**Earth and Art : women ceramicists**” exhibition will feature the work of 8 artists, both established or emerging :

- **Isabelle Sicart**
- **Helle Damkjær**
- **Caroline Scholl**
- **Godeleine de Rosamel**
- **Léonore Chastagner**
- **Sophie Maarek**
- **Manuela Dalle**
- **Emily Fick**

These women artists search for simple shapes and particular materials in their own individual ways, often using a simple, primitive clay, in its natural aspect. Each breathes their timeless dynamism into this ancestral material.

The object is put into all its states: a vase, a sculpture, a decorative domestic object or the occasional piece of furniture; the line between the object of use and the object of art fading away.

The exhibition shows a selection of recent pieces - some made especially with this event in mind - that will dialogue with pieces of modern Scandinavian and contemporary furniture. A platform for these women ceramicists to showcase their talents, the event resonates with the growing recognition of women’s place in the arts, acknowledging and celebrating their contribution in shaping the narrative of contemporary ceramic art.



ISABELLE SICART



HELLE DAMKJÆR



CAROLINE SCHOLL



GODELEINE DE ROSAMEL



LÉONORE CHASTAGNER



SOPHIE MAAREK



MANUELA DALLE



EMILIE FICK

ISABELLE SICART



Born in Marseille in 1970, Isabelle Sicart lives and works in Paris.

After studying ceramics at the Graduate school of Applied Arts, she joined the Lalique creation studio in 1991. After these initial years of experience, Isabelle Sicart then began to design her first collection in 1999, eight years after starting her career at Lalique. This first ceramic collection was for the design firm Les Céramiques. A year later, she created an earthenware collection. Isabelle Sicart designed collections for French furniture-maker Les Migrateurs as well as designing lamps for French pottery maker, the Faïencerie de Lunéville. Since 2004, she has developed her very own designs that combine precision and softness in ceramic objects, unique pieces or in limited series. She has also worked with designer Emmanuel Levet Stenne to create two table collections with enameled stoneware feet or top, eg. the "Polka" pedestal table, the "Sirtaki" console and the "Fado" coffee table, or with designer Francesco Balzano for the Uccelli & Nuvole collection.

All the timeless pieces made by Isabelle Sicart show a simple sophistication with a purity of lines.

HELLE DAMKJÆR



A ceramist and multi-talented designer, Helle Damkjær was born in Denmark and has been living in France for twenty years. She has worked for luxury firms in New York, Tokyo, Paris and Copenhagen such as Kitani, Georg Jensen, Tai ping and Guerlain.

Today she is the recipient of several prestigious awards (Red Dot Design Award, Design Plus Award, Wallpaper magazine design award) and one of the most recognized names in contemporary Danish creation design.

Helle Damkjaer's work is often described as elegant and sensual. An impression born from a perfect balance between materials, shapes and design. Be it furniture, lighting, ceramics or jewelry, her works always radiate a sculptural smoothness with organic shapes.

CAROLINE SCHOLL



For 20 years, Caroline Scholl, who trained at the Nancy School of Fine Arts, has put her creativity to work for Lalique, where she was head of the design office. In 2015, she founded Secret d'Alchimie, a studio where she experiments with her favorite material: glass.

Caroline Scholl enjoys the challenge of combining glass with other materials. She likes working with glassmakers, wrought-iron artisans and leatherworkers to bring people and materials together and develop her rich, inventive vision of fine crafts.

She creates amazing pieces for interior designers as well as new kinds of objects for home fragrances.

More recently, she turned to the art of ceramics and created for gallery Carole Decombe a wall light entitled « Looping » in porcelain and glass, as well as « Ondine », an ocean-inspired mural that will be shown for the first time during the « Women Ceramicists » exhibition.

GODELEINE DE ROSAMEL



Godeleine de Rosamel is a French artist based in Los Angeles, California.

After graduating from the École de Recherche Graphique in Bruxelles, Belgium in 1990, she began her career as a children's book illustrator in Paris.

She moved to Los Angeles in 2001, and it is there that her focus returned seriously to ceramics. In 2000, she showed her ceramic pieces for the first time in a group exhibition. For the past twelve years, she has almost exclusively dedicated her time to ceramics. Working with clay allows a unique combination of accessibility and sophistication that she finds very liberating, meaningful and fun. In her art, she wants to create an imaginary world that is both familiar and coherent, as if she was the first human to enter it.

LÉONORE CHASTAGNER



Born in 1992, Léonore Chastagner studied art history at the École du Louvre and continued her studies with a Master at the Sorbonne. Then she started working with ceramics during a year spent at New York University.

On her return to France, she enrolled at the Villa Arson to embark on a personal approach to this material, and over the years has built up a vocabulary of figurative forms centered on notions of intimacy, interiority and tenderness. The folded garment, the space of the bedroom and bodily gestures are recurring themes. Ceramics is her main material, and she works exclusively in modeling, using the natural hue of the clay. She is also developing a practice of writing and drawing.

“Ceramics is a material of archeological excavations, of evidence, trace, and permanence. It allows me to inscribe the everyday in time.”

Nowadays, she lives and works in Montpellier.

SOPHIE MAAREK



Hailing from France and now living in the creative landscape of Los Angeles, Sophie Maarek is a ceramic artist whose journey from the world of fashion has led her to discover a profound passion for the art of clay.

Her artistic evolution is marked by a transition from the dynamic realms of fashion to the serene beauty of crafting lamps and vessels. Drawing inspiration from nature's harmonious forms and textures, she cultivates an organic style characterized by fluid lines and textures. Infused with a touch of French elegance, her creations embrace organic shapes weaving a modern and cozy narrative into each piece. Through the tactile and functional nature of her work, she invites us to experiment the harmonious blend of her cultural roots and the contemporary warmth of Southern California.

MANUELA DALLE



French artist Manuela Dalle graduated in political science and sociology, she works primarily in two media: film and ceramics. Her work has been shown at venues including MOCA Los Angeles, Opéra National de Paris, Fondation Luma, the San Diego/Tijuana Twin Cities Year of Design, Toronto's Black Film Festival and Hauser and Wirth Gallery among others. Apart from a few objects that she continually remakes to find their ideal form (bedside table and carafe), her work is essentially focused on the design of murals and bas-reliefs. In this work, she explores the notion of composition and the relationship/circulation between different elements which, once assembled, create a unity. Inspired by Art Deco architecture, her mural creations are essentially based on building details and iconic motifs, like a cinematic zoom that provokes a change of scale. The shapes revealed are rendered organic and free by reinterpreting them freehand.

Manuela Dalle is currently working in the high-security prison of Los Angeles, with resettlement organizations, and continues her collaboration with artist Kim Gordon, as well as her ongoing quest to link ceramics, dance and architecture.

She describes her work as choreographic, freely articulating dance elements, drawing on image and matter, with architectural rigor and organic interpretation, to invent new forms.

EMILY FICK



Emily Fick is a ceramic artist based in the city of Los Angeles. Her approach centers around the use of clay as her primary medium. She has been exploring ceramics for 4 years where she channels the traditional craftsmanship of hand building and wheel throwing. The objective of her vessels is to elevate your curiosity in texture. She carves tiles into earth-ware and carefully selects colors and imagery to catch the beauty of life that surrounds her.

One technique Emily incorporates into her art is photo lithography. She chooses imagery from old 60s and 70s magazines and transfers them onto the clay vessels. Emily has shown her work the Santa Monica based gallery, 2 to 3 Fair. The show was a collaboration between her and LA artist, Mikol Brinkman. They both played with image transferring, texture, and color.

ABOUT THE GALLERY - CAROLE DECOMBE - FOUNDER



Carole Decombe owns two art galleries, one in Paris and one in Los Angeles. She first opened in 2007, a space to show antiques in the suburbs of Paris, at Garches. Her universe today is in a capsule setting in Saint Germain des Prés (Paris) and in Los Angeles. She offers in both gallery a selection of fine furniture and objets d'art mainly from Scandinavia but also presents contemporary artists' works.

Installed in her art gallery among the antique shops and galleries of the Carré Rive Gauche in Paris since 2012, Carole Decombe demonstrates that pleasure in business is eclectic and shares with us her neverending emotion at the beauty of things. The Carré Rive Gauche is a particular district embracing a prolific French history and showcasing preeminent works of art. You might wonder how she comes to be here in the heart of Paris, in the artistic center for collectors ... A few images come to mind, not so distant, but all setting their seal on a story of a passion lived among beautiful people and beautiful things ... After studies in history of art at the Ecole du Louvre, she attained a degree in architectural and interior design heritage preservation. Carole Decombe's first job was not very far away from her gallery in the Carré Rive Gauche, working for an antique dealer on quai Voltaire. As a buyer, Carole spent a lot of time at public sales in Paris, particularly in the Drouot auction rooms, and this is where her passion for art, and her eagerness to search for rare items really began and where she gained an educated eye.

Carole Decombe works with a number of American designers on the East Coast and she naturally wanted to be a part of the design movement in California. She launched a new space in 2016 on Melrose Avenue, the heart of the design district. In 2020, Carole decided

to create a new concept : "My Home is my Gallery" at her house in Pacific Palisades. She recognizes that Los Angeles is attracting more influential artists and global art galleries. The influx from New York to participate in the art scene on the West Coast is creating a shift in relevance. "For me, Los Angeles is a place of enthusiasm and energy where artistic spirit soars."

Carole continually looks for authenticity in her work, the simplest way of passing on this unceasing emotion at an object, a creation, a person. She likes to set the stage, boldly putting things together, mixing the genres of the 18th century with the decorative arts of the 20th century, contemporary art. This is why she knew, when she opened the gallery that bears her name on 30, rue de Lille that creators had to be part of her story. Carole Decombe acclaims the work of contemporary artists and designers. Both of her spaces are an invitation to discover what would be described as her artistic convictions. "I am fascinated with the creative process and the narrative behind it - the core of craftsmanship. Artwork represented in my gallery showcases the refinement of authentic hand-made objects of art. My collaboration with the artists all encompassing and informs my vision as a gallerist" said Carole Decombe.

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