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Ceramics & Space – Finnish Ceramic Art Exhibition artist selections have been made
10.10.2014 – 12.01.2015 Design Museum, Helsinki

The Finnish Association of Designers Ornamo will be organising the first exhibition of contemporary Finnish ceramics in cooperation with the Design Museum and the Association of Finnish Sculptors. The exhibition will be the main exhibition at the Design Museum in autumn 2014.

A total of 144 applications proposing 497 works were submitted for the Ceramics & Space exhibition by the deadline set. The Jury selected 43 artists or working groups and a total of 66 works. Applications to the exhibition were submitted by members of Ornamo and the Association of Finnish Sculptors, and by members of Artists' Association MUU, the Finnish Painters' Union, the Union of Artist Photographers and the Graphic Artists' Union of Finland. The Jury also had the right to invite artists from outside the exhibition call.

Artists chosen to the exhibition:

Aaltonen Erna, Aromaa Arni, Candolin Christine, Falin Priska, Groth Camilla, Haapala Merja, Hämäläinen Risto, Helle Emma, Hellman Åsa, Hirvelä Markku, Horila Kerttu, Ishimoto Fujiwo, Kannosto Sakari, Kivivirta Kirsi, Lahdenmäki Nathalie ja Niidome Naoto (group), Larjo Olli ja Wallenius Lasse (Archive-group), Lehtinen Tuula, Liimatainen Matias, Mäkikoskela Riikka, Mäkilä Jarmo, Matikainen Tiia, Murtti Saana, Nurmi Maritta, Paasonen Soile, Paikkari Pekka, Pehkonen Laura, Pöllänen Pauliina, Ranki Merja, Rintaniemi Päivi, Riska Kristina, Rönkkö Riitta, Ruotsalainen Sami, Rytkölä Johanna, Sainio Anneli, Slotte Caroline, Somma Tuuli, Taiviola Kirsti, Talonpoika Riitta, Tamminen Veera, Vainio Tiina, Valkola Jyrki, Vuorivirta Iina, Widnäs Karin.

Jury's statement

A diverse selection of submissions was received, making the Jury's choices difficult yet unanimous. Spatial manifestations of ceramic art include poetic artwork materialised as sculptures, installations, as well as form and material studies. Many of the works deal with the history and presentation methods of ceramics in this time and place.

Ceramics can also be employed to deal with sociopolitical topics; the material acts as a social mirror and an ironic statement on the environment we live in. What is a valuable enough motif to decorate pottery? Pure beauty and grotesque humour as well as possibilities for meditation and questioning can be found in the works.

Ceramics provide important material with a long tradition for the field of contemporary art. The various techniques available for ceramic art stand out from the selection of works: ceramics can be hand-built, cast, broken, illustrated, constructed and combined with other media. The works display the state of Finnish ceramic art ranging from the strong tradition of crafts and mastery of materials to more free-form approaches where everything is possible. The traditions of ceramic art as well as awareness of and breaking away from these traditions are equally visible in this set of works. The Jury wished to highlight this multitude of aspects of ceramic art as a factor enriching the field and taking it further.

The jury:

Monika Gass, Museum director, Keramikmuseum Westerwald
Maija Helasvuo, Sculptor, The Finnish Association of Sculptors
Suvi Saloniemi, Curator, Design Museum
Kim Simonsson, Sculptor, The Finnish Association of Designers Ornamo

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