

13.09 -
22.12.2019

**BE
YOND
THE
VESSEL**

MYTHS, LEGENDS, AND FABLES
IN CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS
AROUND EUROPE

 **MEŞHER**

Ceramics has always been a vehicle for conveying shared human stories. The earliest specimens reveal how as object and material it has borne a multitude of meanings from the utterly functional to the highly symbolic. The recent revival of the use of clay as a means of creating abstract sculpture, wherein the narrative element is made subordinate to the expression of raw emotion reveals how this material and genre has once again become one of the most captivating within contemporary arts.

Beyond the Vessel: Myths, Legends, and Fables in Contemporary Ceramics around Europe demonstrates how ancient myths from various cultures have echoed down generations and inspired an exciting new wave of contemporary art. The exhibition showcases clay, a material often used simply to manufacture vessels and other utilitarian objects, manifesting its prolific and versatile rhetoric in the hands of artists with exceptional skill and vision, expressing human emotion in the greatest degree of subtlety. While some artists in the exhibition do not fire their clay, others use found shards of ceramic to develop their work. The different techniques implemented within the artworks result in a myriad of genres, ranging from hyperrealism to abstraction.

The works in this exhibition spring from a universe of

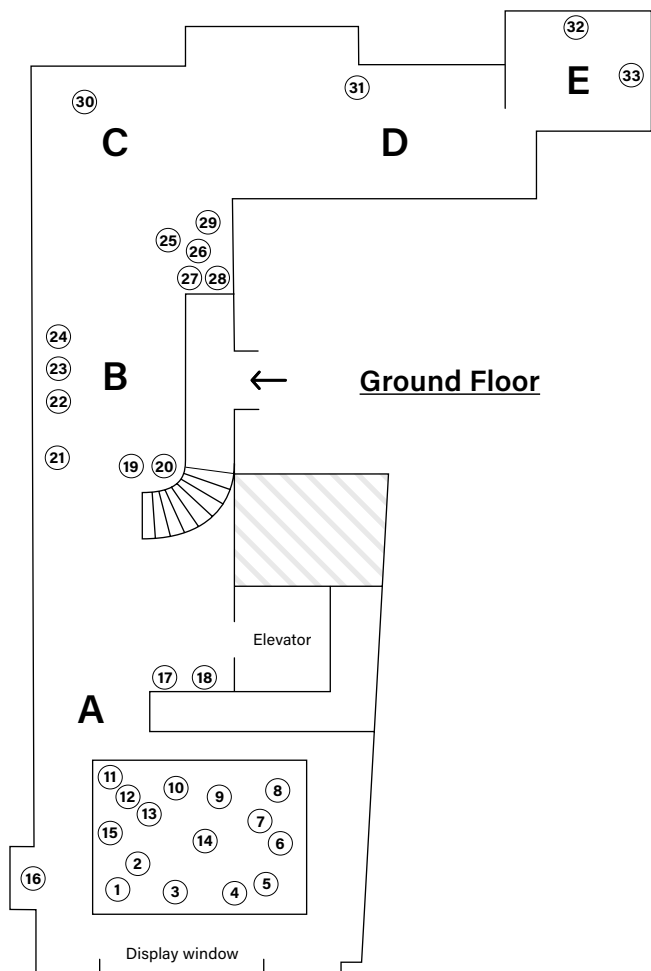
nightmares and dreams, the monstrous and the beautiful; the past and the present, captured in the same instant. The territories inhabited range from the lush and dark forests of the North, to skies brushed by “the rosy-fingered dawn” in Homer’s words. *Beyond the Vessel* is full of story-tellers; the narratives varying between the fairy-tales of the Brothers Grimm and H. C. Andersen to the stories about Zeus the cloud-gatherer and the serpent-haired Medusa. The exhibition is an investigation of human affairs, past and present, moulded by that primordial human material, clay. There is no doubt that the complex, polychrome works represented here point to a larger, vibrant, and growing international scene, much of it committed to delivering a poetics and commentary on the twenty-first century.

ARTISTS: Sam Bakewell, Bertozzi & Casoni, Vivian van Blerk, Christie Brown, Phoebe Cummings, Bouke de Vries, Malene Hartmann Rasmussen, Klara Kristalova, Elsa Sahal, Kim Simonsson, Carolein Smit, Jørgen Haugen Sørensen, Hugo Wilson

CURATED BY: Catherine Milner and Károly Aliotti

in collaboration with

M E S S U M S W I L T S H I R E



Credits

A Malene Hartmann Rasmussen

1 'Golden Goat', 2019 **2** 'Sexy Frog', 2018 **3** 'Treasure Box', 2019 **4** 'My Inner Beast 6', 2017 **5** 'In the Dead of the Night', 2015 **6** 'My Inner Beast 4', 2017 **7** 'In the Dead of the Night [Head]', 2015 **8** 'Two Face', 2019 **9** 'Squirrel', 2019 **10** 'My Inner Beast 5', 2017 **11** 'My Inner Beast 1', 2017 **12** 'The Egg Hunter', 2019 **13** 'Violet Sleep', 2019 **14** 'Fantasma [Ghost]', 2019 **15** 'Kelp Man', 2018 **16** 'In the Dead of the Night [Bone Ladder]', 2015 **17** 'Horn of Plenty', 2018 **18** 'Corn Dolly Crown', 2017

B Kim Simonsson

19 'Forest Saint', 2018 **20** 'Moss Girl with Hat', 2018 **21** 'Moss Boy with Feather Crown and Fashionable Jacket', 2018 **22** 'Moss Girl with Feather Hat', 2018 **23** 'Moss Girl with Optical Glass', 2019 **24** 'Moss Man with Technical Glass Tube', 2018 **25** 'Moss Girl with Feather Treasure and Feather Crown', 2018 **26** 'Moss Man', 2018 **27** 'Moss Dandy with Treasures', 2018 **28** 'Moss Amish with Treasures', 2018 **29** 'Moss Girl with Cauliflower Pet', 2018

C Phoebe Cummings

30 'Ornamental Chronology', 2019

D Vivian van Blerk

31 'On the Beach', 2019

E Bouke de Vries

32 'The Last Supper', 2019 **33** 'Steel Mirror', 2014

MALENE HARTMANN
RASMUSSEN



 malenehartmannrasmussen


KIM SIMONSSON



 kimsimonsson

PHOEBE CUMMINGS



 phoebe_cummings

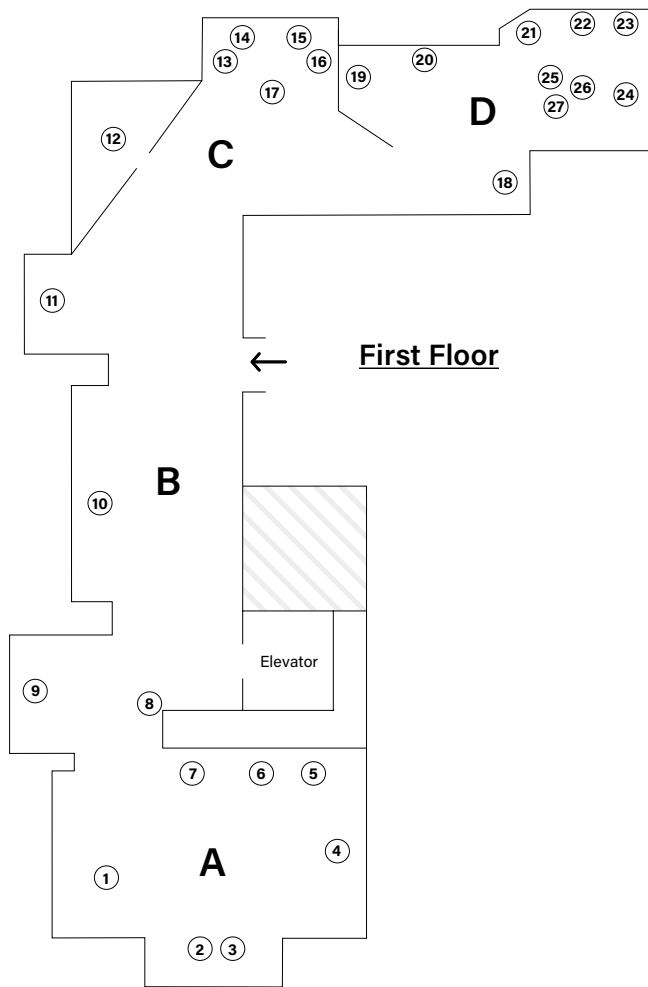
VIVIAN VAN BLERK



 vivianvanblerk1

BOUKE DE VRIES





Credits

A Carolein Smit

1 'Crystal Man', 2010 **2** 'Jumping Tattooed Dog', 2018 **3** 'The Lurcher', 2019 **4** 'L'Amour fou', 2017, 2018, 2019 **5** 'One Walking Bug', 2019 **6** 'Insects and Flowers', 2019 **7** 'Lamb of God', 2017 **8** 'Medusa', 2017

B Klara Kristalova

9 'The Queen', 2017 **10** (from left to right, upper row) 'Sparrow', 2019 - 'Bust', 2012 - 'Beast', 2019 - 'Overview', 2019 (from left to right, lower row) 'The Practice', 2014 - 'Still Remaining', 2012 - 'Straw Man', 2012 - 'Dead Hare with Sport Shorts', 2016 - 'Cow Mother', 2012 **11** 'Abundance', 2007

C Bertozzi & Casoni

12 'Ossobello', 2010 **13** 'Primavera' (Spring), 2019 **14** 'Estate' (Summer), 2019 **15** 'Autunno' (Autumn), 2019 **16** 'Inverno' (Winter), 2019 **17** 'Quinta Stagione' (The Fifth Season), 2019

D Christie Brown

18 'Black and White Katze', 2019 **19** 'Grand Careto', 2019, 'Careto Figure with Antlers', 2018 **20** 'Fancy Sheep', 2019 **21** 'Jokili', 2019 **22** 'Serious Fledermaus', 2019 **23** 'Grand White Bat', 2019 **24** 'Red Burryman', 2019 - 'Tall Red Careto', 2019 **25** 'Small Fledermaus', 2018 **26** 'Red Careto Portrait', 2019 **27** 'Small Red Bat', 2018

CAROLEIN SMIT



 [smitcarolein](#)

KLARA KRISTALOVA



 [hundskogen](#)

BERTOZZI & CASONI

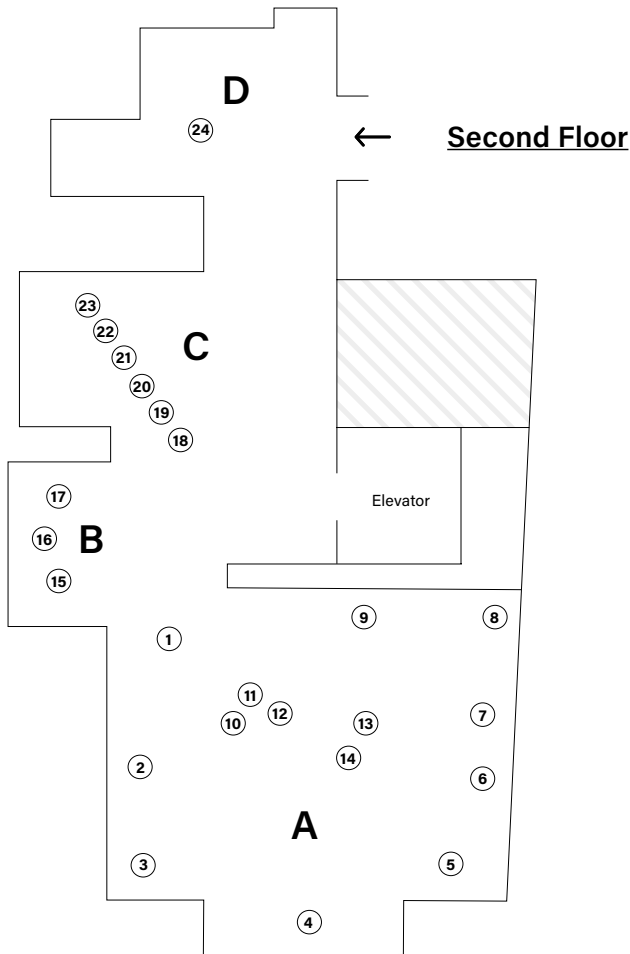


 bertozziecasoni

CHRISTIE BROWN



 xiebrownceramics



Credits

Ⓐ Jorgen Haugen Sorensen

1 'The Pair', 2016 **2** 'Caring', 2016 **3** 'Somewhere', 2018 **4** 'Justitio IV', 2017 **5** 'Drone Sound', 2019 **6** 'Dog Fight', 2016 **7** 'Dogs', 2016 **8** 'That's Why They Call Them Dogs (Dog Lying)', 2008 **9** 'Dogs, Relief', 2013 **10** 'That's Why They Call Them Dogs (Dead Dog)', 2008 **11** 'Underdog', 2016 **12** 'That's Why They Call Them Dogs (Dog Sitting)', 2008 **13** 'That's Why They Call Them Dogs (Dog Standing)', 2008 **14** 'Streetdog', 2019

Ⓑ Elsa Sahal

15 'Léda Louisiane', 2014 **16** 'Léda Montana', 2014 **17** 'Léda Texachigan', 2015

Ⓒ Hugo Wilson

18 'Object 2', 2019 **19** 'Labour 5 (The Augean Stables)', 2014 **20** 'Labour 9 (Hippolyte's Belt)', 2014 **21** 'Labour 7 (The Cretan Bull)', 2014 **22** 'Labour 10 (The Cattle of Geryon)', 2014 **23** 'Labour 1 (The Nemean Lion)', 2014

Ⓓ Sam Bakewell

24 'The Reader', 2011-2019

JØRGEN HAUGEN
SØRENSEN



 [jorgenhaugensorensen](https://www.instagram.com/jorgenhaugensorensen)

HUGO WILSON



 [hugowilsonstudio](https://www.instagram.com/hugowilsonstudio)

ELSA SAHAL



 elsasahal

SAMBAKEWELL



 sambakewell

BE YOND THE VES SEL

Free guided tours are available every Saturday and Sunday at 12.00 and 15.00.

Please book via reservations@mesher.org

The exhibition catalogue is available at Meşher and YKY bookstores.

Visiting Hours

Tuesday - Sunday: 11.00 - 19.00

Long Friday: 11.00 - 20.00



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