

Letter of recommendation for Bulgarian ceramic artist Ivan Kanchev

Ivan Kanchev's ceramic pieces have a unique and intriguing quality to them. The pieces appear to be a synthesis of something simultaneously new and old. The monumental, sculptural pieces tell a tale of a creative mind willing to experiment by using a combination of a number of familiar and innovative working methods. Many of the pieces have been assembled from small parts, a myriad of tiny pieces, which are brought together in to a calmer, simple shape. The many details reveal themselves as one curiously moves forward to take a closer look – like a form of modern Mosaic.

Although modern in its approach and large scale there is definitely something archetypal, but also mystical and ancient about Kanchev's huge sculptures – especially the wheels. One also senses a touch of a cultural expression, that might emerge from Ivan's Bulgarian background, hidden in the work, but since I have never been to Bulgaria, this remains a guess from my side. There is an energy and intense expression in the work. Ivan's sculptures definitely carry the strength of his personal statement with them, and the ceramic pieces have a very clear "fingerprint" from the artist's hand. Here we obviously are looking at an ambitious ceramic artist with the will and intent to create something new and vibrant, an artist with a personal drive and an experimental approach to his artistic oeuvre.

Born in 1973, Ivan has already exhibited extensively all over the world, and his work is to be found in numerous collections. On top of that he is also a teacher and a curator.

It is my opinion that Ivan's original ceramic work is a clear contribution to the international development of ceramics.

I therefore warmly recommend Ivan Kanchev as a new member of IAC.

Best regards,

Barbro Åberg
Member of IAC

Skovstien 7
DK-8680 Ry
Denmark

barbro@abergnow.com

www.barbroaberg.com