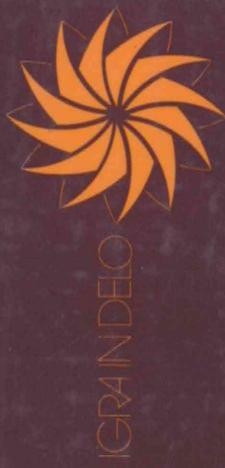


dragica Čadež-lapajne



# glinā, leš, papīr, koviņa



# OD GLAVE DO PORTRAITA

Dragica Čadež Lapajne



modeliranje z glino

# UNICUM 2015

## KERAMIKA DANES / CERAMICS TODAY

III. MEDNARODNI TRIENALE KERAMIKE UNICUM 2015, SLOVENIJA  
III. INTERNATIONAL CERAMIC TRIENNIAL UNICUM 2015, SLOVENIA



## KERAMIKA ZNOTRAJ LIKOVNE UMETNOSTI

Želja po večjem zanimanju za keramiko se je v Sloveniji povečevala, dokler ni dozorela in se tudi uresničila. Po zgledu uspešnih prireditev, ki so v svetu promovirale keramiko, je bil s podporo NMS v Sloveniji ustanovljen prvi mednarodni trienale keramike UNICUM. Krst je doživel leta 2009 z razstavo v prostorih Narodnega muzeja Slovenije - Metelkova. Trenale je potekal v organizaciji Zveze društev slovenskih likovnih umetnikov (ZDSLU). Prav likovni umetniki in tedanji predsednik zveze so poskušali odgovoriti, kako opredeliti keramični medij znotraj likovne umetnosti in načrtovati razvoj tako trienala kot tudi umetniške keramike v najširšem pomenu te besede.

Namen trienala UNICUM je Sloveniji predstaviti sodobno likovno dogajanje svetovne umetniške keramike, univerzalnost in raznovrstnost avtorskih pristopov, ob tem pa raziskovanja posredno smiselnost umestiti v kontekst lastne prakse našega vsakdana. Za moto razstave je bila izbrana beseda **UNICUM**. Označuje nekaj posebnega, nekaj, kar nima para, poudarja umetniško usmeritev sodobne keramike in duhovno potrebo po avtorskem ustvarjanju in uveljavlja keramiko kot medij, enakovreden sodobni umetnosti, še posebej na likovnim področju. Geslo **Keramika danes** spremišča osnovni naslov trienala, s tem želi pritegniti pozornost javnosti in jo seznaniti z brezčasnostjo medija in tako potrditi, da je tudi sodobna keramika postala del vsakodnevnih izkušenj.

Tretji mednarodni trienale keramike UNICUM 2015 je organiziran v okviru NMS in predstavlja kratek pregled sodobne keramične umetnosti. Posebno pozornost si zaslubi mednarodna razstava avtorske keramike v tekmovalnem delu trienala, ki je postavljena v osrednjem razstavišču NMS na Metelkovi. Mednarodna strokovna žirija je opravila izbor za razstavo in določila nagrajenia dela. V tekmovalnem delu je izbrala 94 avtorjev in njihovih del iz 35 držav (vseh skupaj je bilo prijav 309, iz 52 držav). Presojo je komisija opravila odgovorno, strokovno in moralno neoporečno. Upoštevala je individualni likovni izraz znotraj sodobnih likovnih dogajanj. Umetniki so morali dokazati, da razumejo keramiko kot izrazni medij in kot posrednik med avtorjevo idejo in tehnično izvedbo v materialu. Sodobno ustvarjanje v keramiki je razpeto med dizajnom in umetnostjo, pri tem pa imajo prednost dizajn, tehnične inovacije, velikokrat tudi formalizem in stereotipi. Cilj trienala je opozoriti na različne vzgibe sodobnih avtorskih praks v keramiki doma

## CERAMICS WITHIN THE VISUAL ARTS

The wish to stimulate greater interest in ceramics in Slovenia has a long history and has deepened until it matured and became fulfilled. Following the example of successful events that have promoted ceramics around the world, the National Museum of Slovenia (NMS) supported the organisation of the International Ceramic Triennial UNICUM in Slovenia; its first edition was an exhibition in the premises of the NMS in Metelkova Street in 2009, organized by the Association of the Slovene fine Artists Societies. Visual artists and the then chairman of the union were the first to try and answer the question how to define the ceramics medium within the visual arts, and how to plan the development of both the triennial and art ceramics in the widest sense of the term.

The aim of the UNICUM Triennial is to present in Slovenia the contemporary developments of art ceramics around the world, the universal nature and diversity of artistic approaches, and to position the exploration of ceramic art in the context of our everyday practices. The motto chosen for the exhibition is the word **UNICUM**, which means something special, unique, which has no match, emphasizing the artistic direction of contemporary ceramics and the spiritual need for creative authorship, and asserting ceramics as an equal medium in modern art, especially in the visual arts. The motto **Ceramics Today** accompanies the basic title of the triennial, wishing to draw the attention of the public and introduce it to this timeless medium, and in doing so confirm that contemporary ceramics have become part of our everyday experience.

The Third International Ceramic Triennial UNICUM 2015 is organized by the National Museum of Slovenia and presents a brief survey of modern ceramic art. Special attention should go to the international exhibition of author ceramics in the triennial's competition section, staged in the main exhibition hall of the NMS in Metelkova Street. An international professional jury made the selection for the exhibition and chose which works to award. The jury selected 94 authors (from 35 countries) and their works out of a total of 309 submissions from 52 countries. The jury performed its selection responsibly, professionally, and beyond reproach. Its members considered the individual visual art expression within contemporary visual art developments, where the artist sees ceramics as an expressive medium and an agent between the author's idea and the technical execution in the material. Contemporary creativeness in ceramics is

in v svetu in ponuditi svežo vizijo, v skladu s katero keramika ni le uporabno-dekorativno področje, temveč sestavni del sodobnega umetniškega dogajanja na likovnem področju.

Poleg tekmovalnega dela je pomemben segment trienala razstava keramike študentov umetniških šol in akademij. Od študentske razstave pričakujemo interes mladih za oblikovanje v keramiki, likovno širino, svobodne avtorske pristope. Le tako lahko pričakujemo nove dosežke v raziskovanju umetniških izkušenj.

NMS je najpomembnejši iniciator zadnjega trienala keramike UNICUM 2015. Upošteva aktualna dogajanja na področju keramike, usmerja dogajanje in delovanje različnih skupin v Sloveniji, ki se ukvarjajo samo s keramiko. Osrednji dogodek UNICUM spremljajo številne razstave, skupinske in samostojne, ki želijo opozoriti na navzočnost keramike v slovenskem prostoru. Številni razstavniki prostori po Sloveniji upoštevajo aktualna dogajanja na tem področju in spodbujajo k raznovrstnosti raziskovanja in ustvarjanja v keramičnem mediju.

Dosedanja pot in dosežki mednarodnega trienala keramike UNICUM so vsekakor spodbudni. V tem kratkem času se je mednarodno uveljavil, je ena od številnih podobnih razstav sodobne keramike v svetu. Zdaj je treba upoštevati moto trienala keramike UNICUM in poudariti resnično avtorsko umetniško ustvarjanje, drznejše likovne izzive v sodobnem likovnem raziskovanju.

Dragica Čadež Lapajne

torn between design and art, where priority is given to the design, technical innovation, and quite often also to formalism and stereotypes. The triennial aims to draw attention to various impulses in modern author practices in Slovenia and globally, and to offer a fresh vision: that ceramics are not just part of the applied decorative arts, but an essential part of the contemporary trends in the visual arts.

In addition to the competition section, another important segment of the triennial is the exhibition of ceramics made by students of art schools and academies. This student exhibition is expected to stimulate the interest of the young in design in ceramics, the breadth of the visual arts, and free author's approaches, in the hope to see new achievements in the exploration of art experiences.

The NMS is the principal initiator of the UNICUM Triennial 2015, focusing on current developments in ceramics, and directing attention to the development and operation of different groups in Slovenia, which are dedicated exclusively to ceramics. The main event of UNICUM is accompanied by a range of both group and individual exhibitions, drawing attention to the presence of ceramics in Slovenia. Many exhibition premises around Slovenia follow the current developments in the field and stimulate the diversity in exploring and creating in the ceramic medium.

The past record and achievements of UNICUM are certainly encouraging. Within a short period UNICUM has attained the international level and has joined the many similar exhibitions of modern ceramics around the world. It is now time to follow the motto of the UNICUM Triennial and put greater emphasis on truly artistic author ceramics and daring visual art challenges in the direction of contemporary visual art exploration.

Dragica Čadež Lapajne





## RAZNOVRSTNI ŠTUDIJSKI MODELI

Mednarodni trienale keramike UNICUM je že v idejni zasnovi načrtoval študentsko razstavo kot pomemben del celotnega UNICUMA. Razstava keramike mladih ustvarjalcev akademij in fakultet s svojo navzočnostjo opozarja na pomemben segment izobraževanja na področju keramike, ponuja primerjavo različnih kulturno-izobraževalnih institucij, posebej pa opozarja na neizdelano strategijo takega študija v Sloveniji. Raznovrstni študijski modeli ponujajo vpogled v preplet različnih likovnoteoretskih znanj, tehnoloških izkušenj in raznovrstnih umetnostih področij v kontekstu umetniškega izobraževanja. Razstava študentov prikazuje povezovanje študentov keramike na akademijah in umetniških šolah, seznanja mlade z najstarejšim likovnim medijem in spodbuja mlajše generacije na področju univerzalnega avtorskega ustvarjanja.

Usmeritev univerzitetnega študija je smiseln izhodišče za oblikovanje programa določene smeri, ki razvija določene koncepte v okviru različnih interpretacij likovne umetnosti. Studij na različnih fakultetah in oddelkih omogoča poleg specifičnega programa tudi raziskovanje lastnega videnja v kontekstu sodobnih likovnih vprašanj in teoretskih načel. Področja se med seboj razlikujejo, a tudi povezujejo in dopolnjujejo, saj vse izhaja iz primarnega vzugiba in potrebe po umetniškem izražanju.

Vsaka generacija je odločilna in vzpostavlja nov posluh za spremembe, razvija svoje lastne projekte in svoje lastne tehnike. Tehnološki napredek v sodobnem času spreminja kulturne tradicije, s tem pa tudi načine razumevanja znanega v umetnosti prihodnosti, posebej na področju izobraževanja o novih tehnologijah in medijih.

Razstava keramičnih del študentov umetniških šol razkriva gledalcu raznovrstnost izobraževalnih pristopov, opozarja na navzočnost tega prvobitnega likovnega medija in zagotavlja nadaljnji razvoj keramike na področju aktualnega likovnega dogajanja.

Razstava je sestavni del raziskovanja predvsem mladih ustvarjalcev in obvezen del v procesu ustvarjanja in preverjanja v samem sebi v odnosu do drugih. Razstava je potrditev razmišljanja, dosežkov, je izkušnja avtorja in posredovanje dognanj kulturni javnosti ter vnaša v ustvarjalni proces motivacijo, tekmovalnost, ocenjevanje in primerjanje z drugimi,

## DIVERSE STUDY MODELS

The International Ceramic Triennial UNICUM planned a student exhibition as an important segment already in its initial concept. Through their presence, the exhibited ceramics by young artists from academies and faculties draw attention to an important segment of education in the field of ceramics, offer a comparison between different cultural education institutions, and in particular draw attention to the absence of a clear strategy for this type of study in Slovenia. The diverse study models provide insight into the mixture of different theoretical knowledge of the visual arts, technological experiences, and diverse artistic areas in the context of art education. The student exhibition brings together students of ceramics from different academies and art schools, introduces the young to the oldest visual art medium, and encourages the younger generations in the field of universal creative authorship.

The direction of the university study is a sensible starting-point for elaborating a program of a certain direction that would develop concepts within the different interpretations of the visual arts. The study at different faculties and departments enables besides a specific programme also exploration of one's own vision in the context of contemporary visual art questions and theoretical principles. Individual fields differ as much as they are connected and complement one another, because everything starts with the primary impulse and need for artistic expression.

Every generation is of decisive importance and creates new understanding for changes, developing its own projects and techniques. Technological progress nowadays changes cultural traditions, changing also the ways we understand what is known in the art of the future, especially in the field of education in new technologies and media. The exhibition of ceramic works by students of art school reveals the diversity of approaches to education in the field, draws attention to the presence of this primeval visual art medium, and ensures the further advancement of ceramics in line with the current developments in the visual arts. The exhibition is an essential element of the

exploration mainly young artists must engage in and a necessary part of the process of creating and that of finding out about oneself in comparison to others. The exhibition is a confirmation of reflections and achievements, a special experience for the authors; it mediates findings to the cultural public, and adds motivation, competitiveness, evaluation, and

odgovornost do svojega dela in sprejemanje konstruktivne kritike.

Izbor umetniških šol, ki sodelujejo na trienalnu, je narejen po ključu, po katerem so povabljeni tiste šole iz držav, od koder prihajajo člani mednarodne strokovne žirije. Sodelovanje fakultet in akademij na mednarodnem trienalu keramike UNICUM je pomemben prispevek v prizadevanju za uveljavljanje avtorske, oblikovalske, uporabne in inovativne umetniške keramike, predvsem pa je sodelovanje povezava z osnovno usmeritvijo študija in poglabljanje v karakterne značilnosti keramičnega medija.

Hkrati s tekmovalnim delom v Narodnem muzeju Slovenije poteka mednarodna razstava keramike študentov umetniških šol in akademij po izboru vabljenih mentorjev iz držav, od koder prihajajo člani žirije (Nemčija, Slovenija, Srbija in Turčija). Dela slovenskih študentk in študentov so izbrala:

Katja Kastelic, prof. Anica Krašna Kocijan in prof. Tanja Pak. Sodelujejo fakultete in akademije:

- Pedagoška fakulteta Maribor, Oddelek za likovno pedagogiko,
- Pedagoška fakulteta Ljubljana, Oddelek za likovno pedagogiko,
- Akademija za likovno umetnost in oblikovanje Univerze v Ljubljani, Oddelek za industrijsko in unikatno oblikovanje, smer Unikatno oblikovanje - steklo in keramika,
- Fakultet primjenjenih umetnosti Univerziteta umetnosti u Beogradu, Beograd,
- Fakulteta lepih umetnosti Univerze v Kocaeliju – Oddelek za Keramiko, Kocaeli,
- Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design – Oddelek za keramiko, Halle.

Dragica Čadež Lapajne

comparison with others to the creative process, as well as a responsible attitude to one's own work and accepting constructive criticism.

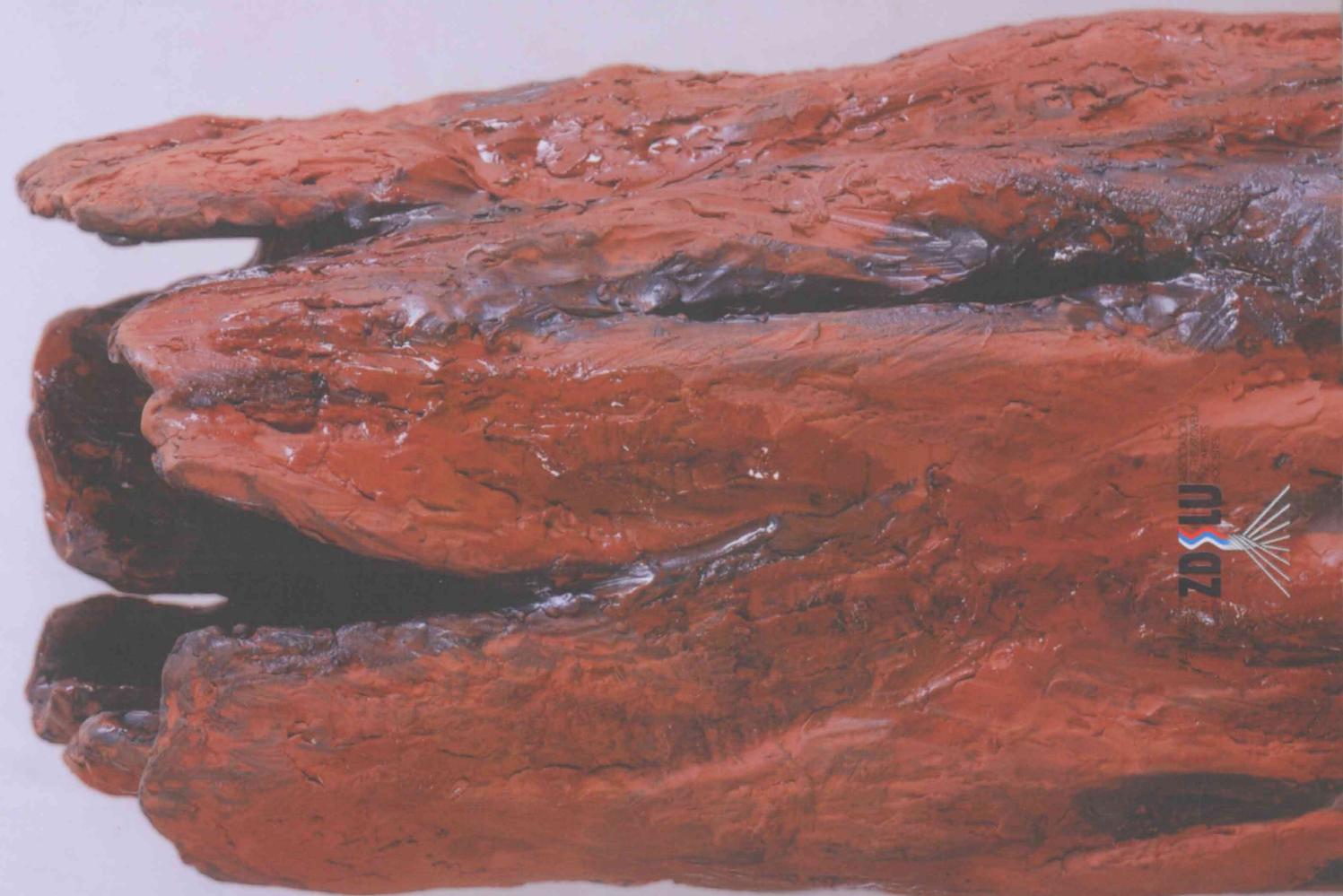
The selection of art schools which participate in the triennial was made in line with the principle that they are from the same countries as the members of the international professional jury. The participation of faculties and academies in the International Ceramic Triennial UNICUM is an import contribution to the efforts for asserting authored, designed, applied, and innovative art ceramics, but their participation is above all connected with the basic direction of their study and deepens the insight of the participants in the character traits of the ceramic medium.

Alongside the competition section, the National Museum of Slovenia stages an international exhibition of ceramics by students of art schools and academies, selected by invited mentors from the same countries as the jury members (Germany, Slovenia, Serbia, and Turkey). The works of the Slovene students have been chosen by Professor Katja Kastelic, Professor Anica Krašna Kocijan, and Professor Tanja Pak. The following faculties and academies participate in the exhibition:

- Faculty of Education, Maribor, Department of visual art education
- Faculty of Education, Ljubljana, Department of visual art education
- Academy of Fine Arts and Design, University of Ljubljana, Department of Industrial and Unique Design
- Faculty of Applied Arts, Belgrade Art University, Belgrade
- Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Kocaeli, Ceramics Department, Kocaeli
- Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design – Ceramics Department, Halle

Dragica Čadež Lapajne

# 1. MEDNARODNI TRIENALNE KERAMIKE INTERNATIONAL TRIENAL OF CERAMICS UNICUM 09





## SODOBNA UMETNIŠKA KERAMIKA V SLOVENIJI IN UNICUM 09

Keramika je pomembna likovna zvrst, ki spreminja človekovo umetniško ustvarjanje od najstarejših začetkov do danes. Je univerzalen likovni medij in se pri nas na področju umetniškega ustvarjanja še uveljavlja. Znotraj svojih zakonitosti postaja vse bolj pестra, v nji najdemo vedno več različnih pristopov in slogov. Tako odkriva neomejene možnosti avtorskega izražanja in raziskovanja.

Razstava Mednarodni trienale keramike Unicum 09 v Sloveniji predstavlja umetniško keramiko v najširšem razponu likovnega ustvarjanja in tako ustvarja možnost, da pojmovanje keramike dobi ustrezeno vrednost v sodobni likovni umetnosti tudi pri nas. Za moto razstave je bila izbrana beseda UNICUM, ki poudarja umetniško usmeritev sodobne keramike in duhovno potrebo po avtorskem umetniškem ustvarjanju, enakovredno sodobni umetnosti, ter združuje kiparsko formo, slikarsko barvo, organizacijo prostora in vključevanje sodobnih medijev.

V svojem razvoju keramika odseva različne vplive, vzpone in stagnacije. Umetniki različnih obdobjij so zaznamovali določen čas in prostor. Tudi sodobna keramika je odraz današnjega časa in sodobnih likovnih dogajanj. Umetniki razumejo keramiko v najširšem smislu, od stvarne materialne upodobivite do abstraktnega pojma, kot izrazni medij in kot posrednika med avtorjevo idejo in tehnično izvedbo v materialu. Pečat sodobnosti prinaša individualizem, dokazovanje svojega lastnega jezika, kjer se zrcali individualna poetika, oplemenitena z vplivi in tehnološkimi rešitvami iz vsega sveta. Živimo v dobi, ko nam je vse dostopno in smo z vsem seznanjeni. Tako ima keramika vse možnosti, da se svobodno giblje znotraj umetniškega izražanja in poskuša preseči stereotipe ortodoksnosti.

V keramiki je človek že od nekdaj izražal svojo potrebo po individualni izpovedi v najglobljem smislu. Nekateri umetniki so nadgradili tradicijo in spremenili njen vrednotenje v zgodovini zahodne civilizacije. Med njimi so tudi uveljavljeni umetniki iz polpreteklega in sodobnega časa: Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Fontana, Cragg, Caro, Arman, Deacon, Perry, pri nas France Kralj, Miha Maleš, Tone Demšar idr. Njihova dela pokrivajo celotno območje med tradicionalno keramiko, kiparstvom, slikarstvom, grafiko in tehnološkimi možnostmi novih medijev. S svojo osebnostno avtoritetno dokazujejo ambicijo po sintezi umetnosti in po ustvarjanju novega kulturnega prostora na področju kreativne, avtorske keramike.

## INTERNATIONAL TRIENAL CERAMICS UNICUM 09

In the artistic world ceramics have been very important as a follower of people's creativity since ancient time till now. Ceramics are a universal art media and are still winning recognition with us. It presents potters with a very wide choice of working methods by which it is possible to create forms of enormous variety, differing in style and performance. With an increased access to excellent technology, artists are freer now than ever before to interpret their individual concept.

The Trienal Ceramic Exhibition UNICUM 09 presents ceramics which range from increasing array of artistic creations to variety of Slovene approach and to personal visual preferences. Each piece is a statement as any painting or a piece of sculpture. It offers possibility to consider ceramics to earn growing recognition in contemporary art. The word UNICUM lays stress upon artistic orientation of contemporary ceramics and the need of author's artistic creativity in modern art. It is equal in value to other forms of contemporary art because it incorporates sculptural form, art of painting and organisation of site as well as inclusion of up to date media. In their development ceramics can show influences, rises and stagnation. Artists influenced many different cultures through the history of ceramics. Contemporary ceramics is also a reflection of today's art. Artists consider working with ceramics as a fact that contributes to the appeal and excitement of pottery as a medium from abstract forming to material shaping and it is irrevocably tied to personal visual preferences. Giving the design of one piece is a very personal process. Contemporary artists interpret their individual concept of relationship between form and function. Due to excellent technology from all over the world, they show their own expression differing in style and performance like fine pieces of musical compositions. Ceramics nowadays have many possibilities to show qualities that can be recognised universally transcending barriers of time, culture and language. They overcome stereotypes of orthodoxy. Ceramic artists have always explored, facing intense competition to create forms of enormous variety and individual approach. Some artists enriched tradition with fresh stimulating images and changed evaluation of ceramics which it had in western civilisation. This is confirmed by well known artists like Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Fontana, Cragg, Caro, Arman, Deacon, Perry, France Kralj, Miha Maleš, Tone Demšar.

Pričakujem, da bo tudi pričujoča razstava Mednarodni trienale keramike Unicum 09, prva tovrstna prireditev v Sloveniji, s svojim izborom prispevala del umetniškega naboja in keramičnih izkušenj v zakladnico sodobne umetniške keramike.

Dragica Čadež Lapajne

Tone Demšar and others. Their creations include traditional ceramics, sculpture, painting, graphic arts enriched with technological improvements of new media. With their personalities and authority they prove the ambition to synthesize art and new culture of creative authorised ceramics.

We expect that the Exhibition of International Trienal Ceramics UNICUM 09 will contribute with its choice to part of artistic inspiration and experiences to contemporary modern ceramics.

There are not many kinds of materials which have followed people's culture and creativity from the very beginning until nowadays. One of this is clay and ceramics, present at any time in all cultures existing in our planet, if only there were natural conditions for acquiring and working.

Experts consider different fields of work in ceramics which are combined regarding materials, production processes, firing, and glazes. With their expressional diversity and technically simple mode of proceeding it is accessible to many artists. Ceramics represent materials which enable artistic expression because art produced in clay today is crossing the boundaries of other art forms and media. The boundaries of what is considered art have been stretched considerably in this century and to many authors ceramics enable process that other materials cannot offer.

Today the works of folk pottery and artistic creations of the world's best art are woven throughout, making up deficiency.

Nevertheless an unfortunate distinction is still being made about quality and artistic value, but let experts judge it.

We are interested mainly in works of art which have paved the way in Slovene fine arts. On Mrs. Dragica Čadež's initiative, we have started preparations for International Trienal of Ceramic Art UNICUM 2009. The experience of artists has become stimulus to start preparing for Trienal which will make public acquainted with achievements in ceramic art. With this manifestation we would also like to stimulate authors of programs in art schools. It is our interest to introduce profound studies of ceramic art for those students, who find this media suitable and want to express themselves in it. As definitions of art expand, ceramics are earning growing recognition in modern art.

Dragica Čadež Lapajne

# UNICUM $\frac{2}{1}2$

II. MEDNARODNI TRIENALE KERAMIKE UNICUM 2012 - SLOVENIJA  
II. INTERNATIONAL CERAMIC TRIENNIAL UNICUM 2012 - SLOVENIA





## ELEMENTARNA RAZISKOVANJA V SODOBNEM KONTEKSTU.

V keramiki je človek že od nekdaj izražal svojo potrebo po individualni likovni izpovedi. Keramika je likovni medij, ki se enakovredno vključuje v raziskovanje umetniških dejavnosti in terja svojstven položaj glede na specifičnosti v spektru umetniških praks. V procesu ustvarjanja izraža odraz družbe, časa in prostora, preko katerega občutimo in spoznamo, izjemno ustvarjalno osebnost določenega prostora. Čas in prostor določata specifičen karakter, v katerem se kaže bogastvo lepotnih nazorov, tradicij, domislic in pestrost različnih pristopov umetniškega ustvarjanja.

Umetniki razumejo keramiko v najširšem smislu, od stvarne materialne upodobitve do abstraktnega pojma, kot izrazni medij in kot posrednika med avtorjevo idejo in tehnično izvedbo v materialu. V času, ko nam je vse dostopno in smo z vsem seznanjeni, ima keramika vse možnosti, da se svobodno giblje znotraj umetniškega izražanja in poskuša preseči stereotipe ortodoksnosti. Osnovni namen trienala je iskanje elementarnih raziskovanj v povezavi s sodobnim razmišljanjem in izzivi časa. S svojim konceptom poskuša postaviti nova merila za uveljavljanje in vrednotenje položaja keramike pri nas. Med vrsto že uveljavljenih praks vnaša trienale keramike poudarek na smelost, eksperimentalnost in odkrivanje novih možnosti.

Mednarodni trienale keramike Unicum 2012 ponuja bežen pregled svetovnega umetniškega izražanja na področju keramike, na katerem so predstavljeni različni tehnološki in konceptualni pristopi v dialogu s sodobno umetnostjo. Trienale sestavljajo osrednja tekmovalna razstava, razstava keramičnih del študentov umetniških šol, razstava izbranih slovenskih avtorjev in več spremljajočih razstav po vsej Sloveniji.

Osrednji del trienala je tekmovalni del, kjer je bilo ocenjevanje prepusteno presoji strokovne žirije. Mednarodna strokovna žirija je opravila izbor za razstavo in določila nagrajena dela. V tekmovalnem delu je izbrala 62 avtorjev in njihovih del iz 25 držav, iz celotno 294 prijav iz 52 držav. Svojo presojo je komisija opravila odgovorno, strokovno in moralno neoporečno.

Pomemben segment trienala je mednarodna razstava študentskih del umetniških akademij po izboru njihovih mentorjev, ki dopolnjujejo tekmovalni del s svežimi pogledi na keramiko.

## ELEMENTARY INVESTIGATIONS IN A CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

Man has always expressed his need for individual artistic confession through ceramics. Ceramics is an art medium that integrates itself on an equivalent basis in the exploration of artistic activity, claiming a unique position with respect to the specificity within the spectrum of art practices. In the creative process it expresses a reflection of society, time and space, through which we feel and recognize the exceptional creative character of a certain arena. Time and space determine a specific character, which is reflected in the wealth of beauty norms, traditions, ideas and variety of different approaches to artistic creation.

Artists understand ceramics in the broadest sense, from a real material representation to the abstract concept, as a medium of expression and as an intermediary between the artist's idea and the technical implementation in substance. At a time when everything is available to us and we are aware of everything, ceramics possesses all the options to move freely within the artistic expression and attempts to overcome the stereotypes of orthodoxy. The basic purpose of the triennial is the search for elementary explorations in conjunction with modern thinking and the challenges of the time. With its concept, it tries to establish new criteria for establishing and evaluating the situation in ceramics in Slovenia. To the series of already established practices, the triennial of ceramics introduces an emphasis on boldness, experimentation and discovery of new possibilities.

The 2012 Unicum International Triennial of Ceramics provides a brief overview of the world of artistic expression in the ceramics field, which presents a variety of technological and conceptual approaches in dialogue with contemporary art. The triennial consists of a central competitive exhibition, an exhibition of ceramic works by students from art schools, an exhibition of selected Slovenian authors, and several accompanying exhibitions across Slovenia.

The main part of the triennial is made up of the competition, where evaluation is left to the discretion of the jury. The international expert jury made their selection for the exhibition and decided on the winning works. 62 artists and their works from 25 countries were selected for the competition part, from a total of 294 applications from 52 countries. The

V okviru trienala se odvija predstavitev keramike starejših slovenskih likovnih umetnikov pod naslovom Generacija 60 - 80. Razstava dopolnjuje slovensko umetniško usmeritev keramike v polpretekli dobi in dokazuje primarno potrebo po avtorskem likovnem ustvarjanju.

Ob Mednarodnem trienalu keramike Unicum poteka vrsta spremljevalnih razstav, skupinskih in samostojnih, ki želijo opozoriti na navzočnost keramike v slovenskem prostoru. Unicum predstavlja poleg sodobnih umetniških raziskovanj tudi dosežke oblikovanja v keramiki v polpreteklem obdobju, s tem poskuša vzpostaviti javni dialog in tako določiti keramiki mesto, ki ji pripada.

Poudariti je potrebno skrb za slovensko ustvarjalnost v keramiki, predvsem na ustrezeno izobraževanje pri nas. Pričakujem, da razstava, kot je Mednarodni trienale keramike Unicum, s svojo prisotnostjo omogoča širše poznavanje sodobne keramike in prispeva del bogatih izkušenj v zakladnico slovenske in mednarodne umetniške keramike.

Prof. Dragica Čadež Lapajne, akad. kiparka  
Predsednica Organizacijskega odbora Unicum 2012

committee made its assessment with responsibility, professionalism and moral integrity.

An important segment of the triennial is the international exhibition of student works from art schools as selected by their tutors, which supplement the competing part with fresh perspectives on ceramics. A presentation of ceramics by older Slovenian artists is taking place as part of the triennial, entitled Generation 60-80. The exhibition complements the Slovenian artistic direction within ceramics in the recent era and demonstrates the primary need for original artistic creation.

Alongside the Unicum International Triennial of Ceramics a number of accompanying exhibitions, group and solo, are going on, which wish to draw attention to the presence of ceramics in the Slovenian arena. Besides contemporary art exploration, Unicum also presents the achievements of work in ceramics from the recent period, thereby trying to establish a public dialogue and hence define ceramics a place to which it belongs.

It is necessary to highlight the concern for Slovenian creativity within ceramics, especially in terms of appropriate education in Slovenia. I expect that with its presence, an exhibition such as the Unicum International Triennial of Ceramics, will provide a broader understanding of contemporary ceramics and will contribute a part to the wealth of experience within the treasury of Slovenian and international artistic ceramics.

Prof. Dragica Čadež Lapajne, Academic Sculptor  
President of the 2012 Unicum Organization Committee