



Temoku. 1995. Chamotte stoneware, oxides and glazes. Group of seven sculptures in front of the Cultural Forum Meyrin, Geneva (realisation first prize in the competition). 3.60 m/h.

The Constructive Potential of Clay

Article by Monique Wuarin

BY MAKING USE OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL OF clay and the quality conferred on it by high temperatures, I have been able to elaborate a world of stelae, of totems, of figures and characters, which rise into space like symbols and impose their plastic presence on the mind of the viewer.

Temoku. 1995. Another view of sculptural group shown above.





Person. 1999. Chamotte stoneware, porcelain, oxide and glaze. 110 x 25 x 10 cm.



Miaine. 1998. Chamotte stoneware and porcelain. 140 x 25 x 30 cm.

I use a chamotte (grogged) stoneware because its solidity and durability makes it possible to integrate ceramics into architecture and other environments. Sometimes matt and rough, at other times sumptuously bright, it is coloured with black, red or blue pigments; the personality of clay is enhanced by these contrasts. I start a new work with roughly hewn mock-ups that are sometimes only a couple of centimetres high as well as sketches made of earth, and they lead me, as main theme, through my research up to the realisation of my sculptures. Each piece of more than one metre is composed of several elements.

These volumes are modelled, assembled and adjusted, then separated or reunified, following the steps of my work. At the end of this process and its transformations, the sculptures are revealed in their final aspect: puzzling, silent and monolithic.

Ceramics have enabled me to conceive many projects for public places. Many of them have been awarded a prize, and some of them have been realised. By integrating itself into open locations as well as private, more intimate places, my work invites the spectator to discover, to touch, thus reinforcing the position of art in everyday life.

As an expressive material such as wood, stone, bronze or metal, and as a material of evaluation, an investigation, experimentation and observation field, a thinking space, ceramics has offered its possibilities to my wondering and to my dreams.

Monique Wuarin lives and works in Geneva, Switzerland. She has had many solo exhibitions and has won prizes. Her sculptures can be seen in many public squares.



Chamiram I & II. 1998. Chamotte stoneware, oxide and glaze. 185 x 30 x 30 cm.