



Casanovas, Ma Antonia; art critic, director and curator of the Museum of Ceramics of Barcelona.

"Where the world ends..."

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Rosa Cortiella (Barcelona 1965), ceramist and sculptor, is a multifaceted artist. Her restless and curious disposition leads her to constantly investigate with different clays that she combines with materials such as plastic, fiber optics, vinyls and metals. Obsessed with color, she is always using new shades, sometimes acid and garish, sometimes soft and warm. Her works-both objectual and conceptual-are striking for the richness of the chromatic range that characterizes them and distinguishes them from the rest of the Spanish productions. His work, besides being original and personal, lacks artistic precedents: Cortiella, searching for new strategies, enters into other fields in which imagination and fantasy contribute to sublimate his unconscious. Through transgression and, without ever moving away from tradition, he cultivates ambiguity and equivocation. The eye of the viewer, observant and disoriented, finds an explanation in each work. The title, the forms, the materials and the colors, everything speaks for itself. Rosa Cortiella knows how to communicate through her works.

In the exhibition at the Museum of Ceramics, projected a year ago, Cortiella has presented five installations. One enters the exhibition through a forest of bamboos that with the name "Que los árboles no te impidan ver..."

It was presented in Zaragoza (2007). Tall trunks of soft green colors welcome the visitor and allow him to continue discovering the fantastic and magical world that the artist has created to trigger feelings of surprise, expectation, illusion and shock.

"Appearances are deceiving" is a work composed of fourteen pink/flesh-colored stones decorated with motifs of the human and zoomorphic anatomy. For the artist, the stones are living organic elements, capable of generating energy on their own. Stones speak to her, they are vehicles of communication and, therefore, their insensitive and lifeless appearance should be disregarded.

"Mutants" is a set of porcelain lamps with fiber optics that are presented grouped together, just as jellyfish or other marine animals move. In this case they form a cave, a cozy shelter warmly illuminated by a yellowish light. It is a work that attracts with magnetism, by its color, by its implicit magic. Once again we are faced with something that seems what it is not and that, therefore, creates surprise, sharpens the sense of observation and favors the imagination.

"Ikebana" is an installation that integrates not only porcelain vases and flowers, but also a wooden figure. It is an aesthetic and at the same time highly surprising ensemble. In fact, it has been created with a double intention, like everything Cortiella produces. The purpose of this work is to project Chinese shadows, something as common as it is subtle. This naive work, conceived as a floral arrangement, is capable of becoming a large black dragon on the wall.

The exhibition leaves the exhibition after the fifth work, entitled "Second Chance", an invitation to start life anew. Made with fifteen hundred stoneware tubes and as many

plastic tubes that hide the dock, it reproduces the silhouette of a female sex through which the visitor is reborn after a unique experience, in which nature, color and light put the imaginary before the real.