
RE-CREATION

Is this really ceramic?

Or are we in the presence of some kind of living organism? A coral reef, a sea anemone, intricate coral fronds poised to sway in the current; our eyes hesitate, dart about, then finally surrender and plunge gleefully into this unknown material, with forms at once surprising and recognisable, almost familiar to the eye.

Suddenly we are confronted with a new world, a work of pure creation, perhaps even of sublimation.

Ellen van der Woude is something of an enchantress.

Beyond technique, which she masters perfectly, she transforms the material like no one else. She takes possession of it and re-presents it to us to be seen, or re-seen, in a completely different way: her way.

But let us not focus merely on the forms, or on the colours, or the glazes. Leave behind this idea of perfection and control of the elements. Forget the deftness of her work, the intricate details, the crimps and creases. Let

us give in to our emotions, allow ourselves to be taken over by the fantastical, singular nature of the work as a whole. A true presence that transcends the object and the skill that goes into creating it. A sculpture born of the mind and hand of the artist.

How do you recognise a great artist? By their capacity to transport us, encouraging us to ask questions about life and the world around us. This is what characterises the art of Ellen van der Woude, an artist who molds the earth, and the elements, constantly taking us with her on a journey towards parallel universes and new worlds of the imagination.

More than an act of creating, could this now accomplished ceramicist be tirelessly seeking to engage in the act of re-creation?

H.R.H. Crown Princess Stephanie

Hereditary Grand Duchess of Luxembourg

