

TEJA HLAČER

is a Slovenian artist whose works can be seen in Studio HANI from Thursday, March 11 at 16:00 to Saturday, March 27, 2021.

This artist, but also an excellently educated ceramist who has participated for years in important international symposia, art workshops and exhibitions in Finland, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, France, Portugal, Switzerland, Croatia and the USA, and was artistically educated at the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana and the International School of Ceramics La Meridiana in Italy, exhibit refined works of emphasized simplicity, which can only be afforded by those connoisseurs whose visual sensibility is sovereign in the medium of functional pottery, so we can talk about a kind of sculptural relationship.

Everything here is simply derived from the heritage of Slovenian folk pottery, but also a long tradition of nurturing product design. At the same time, the original manuscript of the author is evident, who unmistakably uses her rich professional knowledge and visual sensibility, which will become a part of Teja Hlačer's artistic personality in over twenty years. The poeticity of the presented works emphasizes the simple aesthetic potentials of fired clay, which could also be expressed in a concise form with the words: If something deserves to be made, then it certainly deserves to be made well. The author consciously or instinctively adheres to this. It also indicates that the exhibited works of art have the visual potential to ennoble the space used for their temporary or permanent presentation.

In the exhibited works, the emphasis is on shaping resulting from rotation, with the fact that it is not enslaved to the physiological aspects of functionalism, but rather follows the aesthetic sensibilities resulting from rotation. Here we can certainly talk about a certain instinctual sequence and acceptance of the aesthetic results of a kind of Slovenian "school" of industrial design, but also contemporary sculpture, which permanently enriched visual creativity and informally set a higher level of visual creativity standards in Slovenia, internationally relevant designers such as Niko Kralj, Janez Suhadolc, Grega Košak, Saša Mächtig, Niko Spinčič, and sculptors Tršar and Čadež Lapajne, to remember at least some.

At the same time, it is necessary to state the presentation of these works in the way of obtaining mini-installations of two or more works, which enters into a kind of visual design of space when "vases" become sculptural elements of some sets. It is to be hoped that Teja will soon honor us with an exhibition of a greater number of such and new rotated sculptural works exhibited as more or less polyvalent installations. And as she is a visually mature artist who also has top-notch knowledge that it is the right time to help young talented and inventive people to mature into new visual creators. Not as clones, but as a logical reflection of the positive aspects of the design tradition in Slovenia, i.e. Europe.

Zagreb, March 24, 21 Hannibal Salvaro, IAC member

STONEWARE AND DEGREES-FOOTPRINTS

It is difficult to determine when man began to work with clay, but the fact is that this interest in the material and its design has not diminished to this day. Even more and more, the status of ceramics is rising, struggling and slowly gaining equal status within other fine arts, as in the last two or three decades, ceramics and ceramic sculpture have finally begun to shake off the hint of purely artistic craft design. Perhaps this ancient sound of dealing with ceramics has remained so much more ingrained in our field, as pottery and other purposefully designed ceramics in Slovenia have been equated for too long with those that exceed these limits. Teja Hlačer also found herself and her artistic expression in clay. Clay is and offers her endless experience in creating in this original material, which includes not only craft, knowledge and mastery of the material, but also a way of sculptural design and thinking. In her work, which also includes useful ceramics, the predominant design, which intervenes in modern times, is written in space for a lasting presence. Dealing with clay, with its unsurpassed potential, is one that, like many other activities of modern times - from turning to meditation, traditional skills, to nature, marks the time in which we live, but due to the ever-changing speed of living in it, it increasingly turns to itself, to itself and so back, to old insights and behaviors. Namely, ceramics offers a touch of spirituality, fantasy and usability, and if the creator is a good connoisseur of the material and techniques of processing it, then there is no limit for his imagination and not for innovation in creation. Teja Hlačer joins this with her stoneware. In her latest exhibition, which bears the significant name Stoneware and Degrees-Footprints (Kamenina in stopinje), the author tries to suggest both stoneware and material, i.e. high-temperature clay that burns at 1280 degrees Celsius, as well as the place with which it is closely connected - Kamnik. The degrees in the title also have a double meaning and on the one hand they indicate the temperature degrees determined for the formation of the stoneware, and on the other hand they are the author's own steps on the path of learning about clay and creating in this material. Her countless dishes, jugs,

cups and cups carry, each individually stunning view of the diversity of the color palette and a pleasant feeling to the touch - with a touch from our fingertips across the brain takes us to worlds where we feel the author's connection with the material and at the same time our touch connects us with the spirit of this and some distant time. When in contact with clay, Teja Hlačer forgets the time that passes by it and under her fingers, sophisticated shapes are created from this raw material, which are connected with the traditional, but still carry the stamp of modern times in which they are created.

On her way to researching clay, Teja Hlačer learned about clay as a material and its unlimited possibilities in design at numerous workshops, exhibitions and symposia at home and especially around the world - in Finland, Hungary, Italy, France, Portugal and the USA. From a technical point of view, but at the same time, with her delicate nature and timeless creativity, she has managed to create many works that move on a thin line of applied and artistic ceramics. Her work is characterized primarily by simplicity of design and a wide range in the use of various design techniques of this material. Less is more, and so in pure and clear language, with uncomplicated forms and patterns and in material that connects the modern with the past, Teja Hlačer confidently and decisively follows the path of ceramics, which also helps her with her own creativity on the path to its recognition.

Saša Bučan, art historian

(curator and museum consultant at the Miha Maleš Gallery, Kamnik)

(The text was created during the author's exhibition in Kamnik, March 2021)

ZELINA 21

Međunarodna izložba vinskih pehara i vrčeva
International Exhibition of wine cups and trophies

14. – 28. 03. 2021.

Sveti Ivan Zelina, Croatia

Žiri / *Jury*:

Nadica Eichhorn, predsjednica žirija, umjetnica keramike, Hrvatska/

President of jury, ceramic artist, Croatia

Roberta Griffith, članica Međunarodne akademije za keramiku (IAC), SAD /

Member of International Academy of Ceramics (IAC), USA

Samar Mougharbel, članica Međunarodne akademije za keramiku (IAC), Libanon /

Member of International Academy of Ceramics, (Lebanon)

Ati Salvaro, arhitekt, Hrvatska/ *architect, Croatia*

Dani Žbontar, članica Međunarodne akademije za keramiku (IAC), Slovenija /

Member of International Academy of Ceramics (IAC), Slovenia

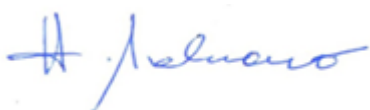
je odredio / *decidet*:

Srebrna plaketa / *Silver plaque*:

Teja Hlačer

Zagreb, 14.03. 2021.

Kurator izložbe / *Exhibition curator*:



Hanibal Salvaro