

François Ruegg

In this piece titled *Contre Nature Morte* which translates as: “against still life,” Swiss artist François Ruegg creates ambiguous objects that both tantalize and confuse with their sensual surfaces and their allusion to ambiguous bodily bulges. The globular forms, directly taken from vegetal shapes, are wrapped in a reflective sheath. The vacuous interiors are coated in the lively colors of fruit and vegetable skins, and as the mirrored armor gives way to openings, cuts, and punctures, the glow emitted draws the viewer’s gaze. Still, upon investigating, we are faced with the reflections of ourselves in the objects as Ruegg plays with internal and external, self and other.

Contre Nature Morte
1 00 x 00 x 00 in (00 x 00 x 00 cm), slip-cast porcelain, bisque fired to 1240°C, interiorsprayedwithpigment and frit, exterior transparent glazed, fire to 1020°C and platinum luster fired to 740°C. SEE RECIPES, BELOW.



SHINY TRANSPARENT GLAZE,
cone 05
Bodmer Ton Switzerland

UNDERGLAZE COLORS, cone
05
Duncan Underglaze Neon Color
Series

LUSTER, cone 017
Commercial Platinum Luster



Technical description

Ruegg’s slip-cast porcelain forms are first bisqued to 1760°F (960°C). The interiors are sprayed with colored underglaze and then fired to 2260°F (1240°C). Next, the pieces are slightly warmed and the exterior is sprayed with the transparent glaze that is mixed with a bit of glue for adherence and the piece is refired to 1904°F (1040°C). To finish, the piece is sprayed with the commercial platinum luster and fired to 1360°F (740°C).

Contre Nature Morte
2 00 x 00 x 00 in (00 x 00 x 00 cm), slip-cast porcelain, bisque fired to 1240°C, interiorsprayedwithpigment and frit, exterior transparent glazed, fire to 1020°C and platinum luster fired to 740°C. SEE RECIPES, LEFT.

- The platinum luster on the smooth glaze reflects like a mirror.
- The reflection is extremely vivid because there is no glaze or glass over the actual luster.
- The soft, matte interior hues sometimes mimic the fruits and vegetable from which they were cast.