

Iva Brkic



know about your origins. Where your relationship with ceramics began and what attracted you to this fascinating artistic manifestation. Why you chose the ceramic materials as a means of artistic expression and did not try others. Also if your work is related to your own emotions or is a consequence of your observations of the world you live in.

I entered the world of ceramics by chance. I was lucky to have the opportunity to see one beautiful ceramics studio before I decided what department at Faculty of applied arts should I enroll. It was love at first site. After one day spent there I knew

I wanted to do this in the future. For me ceramic art is mix of sculpture, painting, technology and a little bit of magic. It gives endless possibilities to materialize my thoughts. Working in ceramics is very challenging and demanding but somehow I feel completely free.

When I work I don't think too much of the meaning of my work. Sometimes I find the meaning of it after I finish it. It is like I am one person while I make something and when the work is done I became my own art critic which tries to understand layers behind it. Maybe psycho therapist more the critic.

Everything I make is related to my emotions, but my emotions are related to the world I live in.

Is there a ceramist, or artistic style that inspired you at the beginning of your career?

My major inspiration doesn't come from other ceramist. What impacts me the most is usually some detail from everyday life. It can be some movie, book, street, object, post card... anything!

There is one person that inspires me in the way of dedication for work, energy and commitment, that is my ex professor and friend now Velimir Vukicevic.

How challenging is it to work with ceramic material?

On one side I feel I know a lot about porcelain and its behavior, but on the other side I feel I'm learning something new every day. That is why I keep working in ceramic. It is an endless field of surprises, mysteries, new approaches... Never boring and there is always something new to improve. Mistakes are often present but from mistakes I learned a lot. Sometimes mistakes give me some new ideas.

What principle inspires the essence of your work?

This world needs more truth, personality, honesty. Taking time for yourself, developing your mind and nurturing talent. Saying something that you think in your own way, through art is what keeps me in piece with myself..

What specific material, within the ceramic, and what technique for the elaboration of your works, are the ones you favour above others?

One word- porcelain. It gives me the best possibilities to express my ideas. Its white color and fine texture allows me to make exactly what I want. Colors that I use are vibrant on a porcelain surface. In my work

fine details are something that I spend the most time working on, and porcelain is the best choice for that. It is also very fragile and challenging, not easy at all, but that is what makes it special.

Do you utilise the new technologies for the elaboration of your works?

I am not into the new technologies when it comes to the process of creation. For now it's just me, my hands, porcelain and the kiln. But as for promotion, visibility and presence in the art society I definitely use "tools" such as internet, social networks, cameras...

What aspects of your work as a ceramist are the ones you find highly rewarding?

Being responsible for the whole process of creation is what I enjoy the most. From preparing the material, to the kiln opening, assembling the work, taking photos. I love that I can do all these things by myself. When I say my work it is really MY work, 100%. That feeling is something that I can't explain by words, but I think all artists can understand.

Have you changed the focus of your work as a ceramist since your beginnings? Which are the reasons that led you to that change?

I can't say I changed the focus of my work completely. Yes, many things are changed, that is normal in the process of growth as an artist. There is always something recognizable

in all of my works, ones from the beginning and the new ones. I think that is good because it means that I am true to myself.

I must admit I have something that is bothering me. At this moment I have two or three styles of my sculptures/installations that I'm developing simultaneously. I've always admired artists who are committed to one idea, because that gives the picture of strong mind and persistence. At this moment I am not ready to give up on any, but maybe this is the next step that is awaiting me. I believe that change is a good thing, but it needs to come naturally in its own time.

Which do you consider should be the role of ceramic artists in contemporary society?

"You have been served"
7 x 50 x 50 cm
Porcelana, lustre dorado,
engobes, pigmentos al agua.
Modelado, cocción oxidante a
1250°C



I think that ceramic art is often misunderstood and wrongly placed in the field of just utility. Maybe it is because in the name itself is the material that is used. Painters are not canvas artists or paper artist, sculptors are not metal or stone artists. When most of the people hear ceramics they think of some utility/-functional objects. One of the goals of all ceramics artists is to present ceramics as a fine art, sculpture or installation.

Regarding the future, what work plans or projects do you have in mind?

My plan is very simple. For now I am trying to participate in many international exhibitions. I have a lot of new ideas for my works and want to be present in an art society. I think that is the role of every artist, to present its work to the audience. Also meeting other artists, curators and people from this field is very important for expanding the views.

Which is your view on ceramic contests?

Ceramics contests are very important for artists because that gives us some kind of value and confirmation of our work. Contents make me work better and it is some kind of training.

What do you expect from them?




From each contests I expect to see professional selection of art. Placing work of art in a certain space among the other works of art gives us totally new view and different dimension. Also this is creating a contemporary art scene. It set certain standards and inspires people to work harder in every way.

Do you believe they are necessary?

Absolutely! If there is no contests artist wouldn't have good perspective of their works. Curators and people from museum organization have incredibly important role of presenting the works in the best possible way to the audience. Many artists (including me) who are making for example installations in space could not actually see their own work completely because of the lack of good space.

How do you consider they should evolve?

I don't have specific suggestion, but more presence in everyday life, more interaction with audience, more workshops... everything that you are already doing.

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