

Press release

ceramic brussels:
A new event on the Brussels international
contemporary art scene

Over the past few years, ceramics has enjoyed a remarkable comeback, grabbing the limelight on the contemporary arts stage.

Supported by a string of pioneering artists who have gradually and largely contributed to its revival (Johan Creten, Miquel Barceló, Grayson Perry, Klara Kristalova, Carolein Smit and Anne Wenzel), ceramics has been given a new lease of life. As such, it is crossing over into the practices of contemporary artists, opening the field to new experiments and being showcased by contemporary art galleries.

Ubiquitous in artists' studios, in international centres and museums, ceramics is in a constant state of (r)evolution, subject to multiple influences and practices, possessed by the Zeitgeist and driven by a varied and high-quality scene.

Contemporary art fair

As a fair resolutely focused on championing contemporary ceramics, this new event will take up the artists' cause. The enthusiastic feedback received during the consultation with international actors during its development phase (galleries, artists, collectors and international institutions in particular) tells us that we are on the right track.

The fair will demonstrate its commitment to continually questioning its format and to promoting and bringing together all actors in the world of contemporary ceramic art.

ceramic brussels will dialogue with the artists, challenge the visitor's certainties, involve the galleries and foster exchange with its different audiences. The fair will aim to enhance the experience and the encounter between content while creating an international market and networking platform.

ceramic brussels will present the diversity of artistic approaches to ceramics through a selection of galleries and input from leading institutions and players from around the world.

Public Relations

So Rare sprl · Avenue Minerve 9, bte 129 · 1190 Bruxelles Belgique

press@sophiecarree.be · www.sophiecarree.be · T+32 2 346 05 00

More specifically, the fair has three distinct objectives:

- to develop a reference event for collectors and art lovers and to encourage the acquisition and presentation of works within collections.
- to concentrate a program of meetings and networking at a high European level. The fair will also pave the way for the publication of an annual book focused on the current links and perspectives between ceramics and contemporary creation.
- to encourage and support young creation by awarding a prize, the contours of which will be shaped by the members of an international jury (its composition will be announced mid-April on the ceramic.brussels website).

Johan Creten: guest of honour 2024

Johan Creten, a precursor of the ceramic revival in contemporary art, will be the guest of honour of this first edition. The artist will be given prominence during the fair, will contribute to the programming of the edition, will be a member of the advisory board and will also participate in the selection of participating galleries.

"The artist, who has been working with ceramics since the late 1980s, when the medium was still considered taboo in the contemporary art world, is known for his innovative use of ceramics. Famous for his allegorical sculptures in ceramic and bronze, Johan Creten has been depicting a world full of poetry, lyricism and mystery since the 1990s. They underline the importance of beauty in his work, while at the same time reaffirming his humanist awareness and the social and political resonance of his practice. In his creative process, Johan Creten evokes "Slow art" and the need to return to introspection and exploration of the world with its individual and societal torments.

Based in Paris, Johan Creten has been working on the move for almost forty years, from Mexico to Rome, from Miami to The Hague. "* (*extract from https://www.perrotin.com/fr/artists/Johan_Creten/36#biography)

An advisory board alongside ceramic brussels

The fair benefits from the mobilisation and valuable support of international experts to actively contribute to the development, exposure and implementation of this initiative focused on contemporary ceramics.

It will be composed of **Johan Creten** (artist, guest of honor 2024), **Christine Germain-Donnat** director of the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature (FR), **Magdalena Gerber**, CERCCO - the experimentation and research center for contemporary ceramics of the HEAD in Geneva (CH), **Geertje Jacobs** (Director EKWC - the international artist-in-residence centre-of-excellence for ceramics (NL) as well as **Ludovic Recchia** (Director of Keramis, Museum, art and creation space dedicated to ceramics, La Louvière (BE).

Public Relations

So Rare sprl · Avenue Minerve 9, bte 129 · 1190 Bruxelles Belgique

press@sophiecarree.be · www.sophiecarree.be · T+32 2 346 05 00

The advisory board will meet 3 times a year and will participate in the elaboration of the program and the selection of the galleries of the edition.

Management duo

The fair is co-managed by a Franco-Belgian duo, Jean-Marc Dimanche and Gilles Parmentier.

Jean-Marc Dimanche: After having created and directed for 20 years the design agency V.I.T.R.I.O.L., in 2008, along with Florence Guillier-Bernard, he founded Maison Parisienne, a gallery dedicated to French crafts. At the beginning of 2016, he was called in as an advisor to H.R.H. the Hereditary Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and worked on the creation of the biennial *De Mains De Maîtres*, of which he is now general curator. Between 2019 and 2022, he was director of ELEVEN STEENS, a private space in Brussels dedicated to Art and Materials. Since January 2019, he has been a contributor to the *Revue de la Céramique et du Verre*.

Jean-Marc Dimanche
jean-marc@ceramic.brussels
+33 6 16 24 08 28

Gilles Parmentier: After more than 10 years working in communication and human resources, in 2011, Gilles Parmentier was appointed director of the Reporters agency, a reference actor in Belgium specialized in photojournalism and video (until 2017). In 2017, he founded Studio Gondo (VO Group), which links the artistic world with businesses and brands. Since 2018, he has been Fair Director of Art on Paper, the international drawing fair in Brussels, which he manages and develops. Brussels Drawing Week, organized in partnership with more than 30 Brussels cultural institutions, was his brainchild. Today he works on numerous artistic and creative projects and events.

Gilles Parmentier
gilles@ceramic.brussels
+32 476 91 07 87

Agenda

End of June 2023

- > publication of the call for participation for galleries
- > update of the website and presentation of the jury for the fair's young talent prize

Beginning of September 2023

- > announcement of participating galleries
- > programming announcement

25.01 > 28.01.2024

- > ceramic brussels

Public Relations

So Rare sprl · Avenue Minerve 9, bte 129 · 1190 Bruxelles Belgique

press@sophiecarree.be · www.sophiecarree.be · T+32 2 346 05 00

S O P H I E
C A R R E E

contemporary art fair
Tour & Taxis - Brussels

ceramic brussels

Contemporary Art Fair

From 25 > 28 January 2024

Tour & Taxis - Brussels

ceramic.brussels

ceramic
brussels

Public Relations

So Rare sprl · Avenue Minerve 9, bte 129 · 1190 Bruxelles Belgique

press@sophiecarree.be · www.sophiecarree.be · T+32 2 346 05 00