

Let's Rarity



A Group Exhibition of
Contemporary Studio Ceramics

Oct 18 – Nov 10, 2018

gallery
manora



Falguni Bhatt

GALLERY MANORA PRESENTS

Let's Party

A Group Exhibition of
Contemporary Studio Ceramics

Curated by Falguni Bhatt

Participating Artists

Amrita Dhawan | Aditi Saraogi
Kaveri Bharath | Potrarasan Suban
Shayonti Salvi | Falguni Bhatt

Let's party is a collection of ceramic artworks by various artists representing transcendence from the everyday to the extraordinary. Steeped in tradition the ceramic form holds its place as a staple of both culture and functionality. A form representational of our everyday life, ceramic sculpture is used as a conduit to representing this transition of the mundane into something worth celebrating.

Drawn from different backgrounds across India, this eclectic mix of artists celebrate their love for the medium, displaying extraordinary talent and passion for clay in a joyous mix of colour, form and function.

"In the humble values of the everyday objects we can find meaning about the value of life"

Curator's Note

It is not 'some where else' in some transcendent realm made secure by absolute knowledge.

We find meaning in ordinary everydayness.

The Ordinary day becomes extra ordinary when we throw a party or be a part of a party / celebration .

Ceramic and Pottery are integral to the culture of the everyday.

Durable and functional, fragile and decorative, it is part of a timeless and highly specialised art-craft tradition.

Whether hidden treasures of archeological interest or museum specimen esteemed for its aesthetic value, ceramics and pottery have long provided invaluable clues to social relations, rituals & celebrations.

"Let's party" takes Clay as the medium to narrate stories about trips down memory lane, a passion for food-drinks, decorative flower arrangements, lights & candle stands, play of dark and light, about how one wants to make an impression or just throw a party.

Falguni Bhatt Sanghvi's sculptures and installations are unique, vibrant and full of life

says Tania Bhattacharya

About the curator



From clay, metal, cloth and paper, collages, murals and more, Falguni Bhatt Sanghvi dabbles in a vast variety of media and techniques. A painter, sculptor, ceramist and installation artist, Sanghvi is all rolled into one. Her art is all about breaking stereotypes and it reflects her intense relationships with her surroundings, as well as her state of mind at a particular point in time.

Sanghvi, 37, was born and brought up in Baroda, Gujarat. With her heart set on art, she enrolled herself at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda and completed her Bachelors and Masters degrees specialising in sculpture from there in 1999.

She decided to freelance as a visual artist instead of taking up a regular job. Along with creating customised sculptures and installations for enthusiasts in Baroda, she also participated in several exhibitions in India and abroad to showcase her work.

When Sanghvi moved to Calcutta in 2008 and set up her studio, Aorang. She maintains a second studio in Baroda where she retreats once in a while to concentrate on her work, or prepare for shows. Over the last 11 years, she has zoomed past many milestones. Take for instance the four-month artists' residency scholarship in 2005 in Barcelona, Spain, and the national scholarship in art from the Indian Ministry of Culture in 1998. Sanghvi has also conducted workshops on Raku pottery (a method of ceramic firing using both fire and smoke to create patterns on clay) and terracotta sculptures.

"I seek to establish a rhythm between shadow and light, emptiness and fullness, light and dark and the rough and smooth," says Sanghvi. She believes that each of her artworks is unique, because they mirror a certain moment of her existence.

WALL FLOWERS II

10" x 5.5"

AD2



“WALLFLOWERS” are an ode to shy party-goers, to vases as vessels that are at once functional and festive and to flowers that decorate and perfume the daily.



Amrita Dhawan is a ceramic sculptor, studio potter and teacher. After studying ceramics at the Delhi Blue Pottery, New Delhi and the Golden Bridge Pottery, Pondicherry, she and her partners established and ran AAKRITI, a studio pottery in Bangalore that produced wood fired functional stoneware and ceramic jewelry. She has participated in a collaborative public art project funded by the India Foundation for the Arts, in artist-in-residence programs in India and China and has shown her work- both functional and sculptural - in solo and group shows. Currently she makes sculpture, functional pottery and conducts basic clay courses at her studio in Bangalore.

DANCING QUEEN

5.5" x 7"

ASI



Winter is coming...it's that time of the year when every moment is a celebration...a party. All the friends and family residing outside are here and all you want to do is to get out, have fun, and...party. Red, yellow, green, blue - life is full of colour and happiness and...party. It is time for candles, fairy lights and of course...a party! Music is in the air, birds are chirping, flowers and bees are buzzing with excitement - do they too sense a party?

So, let our works also celebrate and get into this festive spirit through their quirky shapes, colours and lights. Let us all together 'eat, drink and be merry'. After all,

*'Sound when stretched becomes music
Movement when stretched becomes dance
Smile when stretched becomes laughter
Life when stretched becomes celebration'.*

-Sri Sri Ravi Shankar



Abandoning a career in commercial communication, Aditi Saraogi was exposed to clay through a studio potter in Kolkata. Thereafter, wanting more guidance, she trained under Mansimran Singh in Andretta Pottery, Himachal Pradesh and later honed her skills under Ray Meeker in Puducherry. Aditi then was artist-in-residence with Isabelle Roux in Beaucens, France and in the Yueji Kiln International Ceramic Art Centre in Dehua, China and later with Sandra Black, Fremantle, Australia.

She has been part of numerous shows and residencies, nationally and internationally. Her works are part of private collectors in India and globally. Aditi is also one of the pioneers behind AFSA in Kolkata and she has curated exhibitions and residencies for Gallery Sanskriti, Kolkata, Art Ichol, Maihar and Delhi Blue Pottery Trust, New Delhi.

ON A PEDESTAL

7" x 9"

KBI



Last year was tough for me on a personal level, and I wasn't feeling very celebratory when the idea of this show was mooted, being just a few months since I had lost my father. However, "Let's Party" sounded like the motto by which he lived his life, and the most appropriate way to remember him. So it felt so right to join in. To him, a life lived honestly and humourously, amongst genuine love, was enough cause for celebration.

To be alive is in itself fabulous. To find kindred spirits to share, party and celebrate life with, is the cherry on top! In the everyday people who support us, in the everyday forms and objects that we use, we find joy, and realize that they are anything but ordinary. Let's party!



Kaveri Bharath, from Chennai, moved from working onstage and backstage in theatre, to working with clay in 1995. Trained with Hans Kaushik in Madras, and Padma Rajagopal in Mysore, before learning from Ray Meeker and Deborah Smith, at Golden Bridge Pottery, in 1996 and 1997; going back to work as Ray Meeker's assistant in 1999. She works from a small studio in Madras, and teaches at studios, and institutions, such as the Measi Academy of Architecture, Chennai, and National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, as visiting faculty.

Having set up India's first crowd funded kiln, a Wood fired Soda Kiln, on the outskirts of Chennai, at a friend's farm, she hopes it become a community pottery facility, where other potters and artists can rent out the facilities and work. She has conducted several short-term workshops and hosted several workshops by visiting artists as this facility since.

She has exhibited previously in group shows in Madras and Delhi.

BELONGINGS I

11" x 11"

KBI



A student of sculpture from the prestigious Fine Arts Faculty, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Falguni's interest in handmade techniques and in trying out new concepts is reflected in her art. Her work is based on space, architectural language, organic forms and spontaneity. She enjoys working in both 2 and 3D as well as mixed media with ceramic.

As a lifelong learner, she believes that it is vital to take part in residencies, whether teaching or learning to further her knowledge and to evolve as an artist.

She thinks of herself as "an unconventional ceramic artist, based in this wonderful city of Kolkata - 'The City of Joy'

The humble values of the everyday objects can show us the meaning & value of life.

It is not 'some where else' in some transcendent realm made secure by absolute knowledge , but in ordinary everydayness.

My work represents some common everyday objects like a cup, a kettle, a vase in a different way... more playful and spontaneous.



LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

29"x12"x12"

PS I

The mother and child is a subject that has inspired many artists. However it is rare to find artists explore the bond between a father and his child. S.Potrarasan's work depicts this tender relationship through a sculpture of a father enjoying a moment with his daughter. However there are other layers to this sculpture as he has composed it in such a way that the daughter towers over the father, leading to the question as to who is nurturing whom. In his view, it is the daughter who creates the father and also cares for him and not vice-versa. A work that emerges from his own relationship with his daughter, the intimate nature of the work is heightened by the diary placed in front of it. -Vaishnavi Ramnathan



Potrarasan Suban holds a Master's degree in Fine Arts, has been in many exhibitions in ceramic and sculpture group shows since 2007, in prestigious venues such as the Lalit Kala Akademi in Delhi, Chennai; Chitra Kala Parishath Bangalore; Alliance Francaise Gallery Pondicherry, Government Museum Chennai and in Sharjah. He has completed residencies as part of an Indo-German collaborative program in Frankfurt, Germany, 2016; and the Piramal Art Residency, Mumbai in 2018. He was the winner of the Best Student Awards in BFA and MFA Visual Arts in 2007 and 2009. A Research Scholar, Lalith Kala Akademi, Delhi, in 2013, he has organized the Indo-Korean International ceramic pottery camp, the National Ceramic Camp in Lalit Kala Akademi, Delhi and a Village and Pottery camp in IIT, Madras. He works and teaches from studios in Dakshina Chitra Chennai.

ROUND PLATTER
33cm x 31cm x 9cm
SSI



In my current body of work with tableware, I explore the juxtaposition of cultures, eras, traditions and techniques. The contradictions, so reminiscent of human personality, reveal how we as a species, have evolved to adapt to the daily contradictions we experience in our life.

By composing a framework that includes polished ethereal porcelain with the warmth and rusticity of ferric chloride, I hope to bring to light the effect of self imposed boundaries within our cultures, the promise of evaporating these geographical boundaries, the acceptance of being different and merging communities.

My fascination for this topic stems from the fact that my children are a combination of the Jewish, Sindhi, Punjabi and Maharashtrian cultures and, I'd like to believe, just as beautifully decorated as these works of mine! 'LET'S PARTY' is a phrase I'd like to use, while I think of sitting down at the table, with all that these cultures have to offer, and celebrate their communion.

My wall installation is a celebration of expressions arising from these contradictions, the ones we are able to convey and those that we aren't.



Shayonti, an Interior Designer by profession, worked in Bombay for seven years with Sanjay Puri and Niteen Parulekar. The birth of her two children proved to be the catalyst, urging her to shift professions and follow her dream of being an artist. She has trained at The Golden Bridge Pottery, Pondicherry, under Ray Meeker, Deborah Smith and Cory Brown, after having completed her Diploma in Ceramics from the L.S. Raheja School of Art, Bombay.

She spent some time training with Professor Alan Baxter in France and has been part of various clay workshops renowned ceramists. She has exhibited in various national and international exhibitions. During her recent sojourn with clay, she has explored curation, public art installations, commissioned installations at various corporate and residential spaces. She has been a recipient of various awards over the past few years. She works out of her studio, 'Tattva Studio Private Limited', in south Bombay where she creates sculptures, pots and teaches her students to love clay.



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Brochure Design: Riti Malik (riti@chrysalisdesign.in)

Published by: Gallery Manora, 100 Ft. Road Off,
9th A Main, Indiranagar-1st Stage, Bengaluru 560038

Phone: +919148365444

Email: info@gallerymanora.com

Website: www.gallerymanora.com

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