

PRESS RELEASE

CERAMICA / CÉRAMIQUE / KERAMIK
Tony Cragg, Alberto Garutti, Martin Disler, Bettina Pousttchi,
Alex Dorici, Thomas Virnich, Véronique Arnold
Sunday 19 February 2017
Galleria Buchmann, Via Gamee, Agra, 11am–2pm

We are pleased to announce the opening of an exhibition devoted entirely to ceramics. The show features the work of seven artists: **Tony Cragg** (*1949, Liverpool), **Alberto Garutti** (*1948, Galbiate), **Martin Disler** (1949, Seewen – 1996, Geneva), **Bettina Pousttchi** (*1971, Mainz), **Alex Dorici** (*1979, Lugano), **Thomas Virnich** (*1957, Eschweiler) and **Véronique Arnold** (*1973, Strasbourg).

One of the most ancient materials in human history, ceramics has been used to produce pottery, crockery, decorations and construction materials since the origins of man. Properties like elasticity, wear resistance and durability have allowed a widespread use of ceramics in both sculpture and architecture. In all of its different forms (firing temperatures, composition, glazes, paint, etc.), ceramics has been an integral part of the history of human evolution since antiquity.

The exhibition at Agra takes a look at contemporary artistic production focusing on ceramics. The show includes the work of seven of the gallery's artists: Sir **Tony Cragg** (knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in June 2016) presents works from the 1990s, and two more recent small sculptures. **Alberto Garutti**, well known for his radical and conceptual approach to art, has created a work especially for this exhibition. The show also features several terracotta pieces by **Martin Disler** that were recently displayed at the Kunsthalle in Bielefeld and published in the exhibition catalogue. Drawing inspiration from her special interest in architecture, the Berlin-based German-Iranian artist **Bettina Pousttchi** produces works in which seriality and spatial dynamism delineate a substantial equilibrium of form. **Alex Dorici**'s installation is inspired by the *azulejo* tiles of Portugal's architectural tradition. There are also glazed ceramic works by **Thomas Virnich**, some of which were presented in early 2016 in Tony Cragg's venue in Wuppertal. Finally, **Véronique Arnold** presents a delicate, poetic new work alluding to Japanese traditions relating to the passing of time and the ephemeral existence of human beings.

These artists put forward a wealth of different interpretations of a common medium, ceramics. Some works recall the plant or the animal kingdom; others reflect on the relationship between architecture and space; still others engage directly with the surrounding environment. The exhibition offers a varied, singular group of works centring on the artistic ceramic production of local and international artists, providing an opportunity to discover new stimuli and to be amazed by the uniqueness of the works.

For further information:

Buchmann Galerie

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Open by appointment

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