

Christoph Hasenberg on the work of

ANDREA BAUMANN

Splendour without ostentation -
The elevation of the everyday

Andrea Baumann lives and works in Tyrol, in the mountains overlooking Innsbruck, an almost paradisiacal place.

She completed her apprenticeship as a ceramist in Landshut, opened her first studio in Freiburg, studied fine art ceramics with Johannes Gebhardt and experimental painting with Renate Anger in Kiel.



Later, during a one-year study trip to Reykjavik, she developed her first artistic interventions, videos and photos with great success.

She studied visual design and therapy at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich.

Since 2003 she has been running her studio again working in porcelain.

She colours porcelain from Limoges in France, white, light, translucent, and, with her hands, creates a variety of shapes ranging from cylinders, spheres and hemispheres to plates, cups, bowls and platters, even teapots. Her tools are her hands, her sensory organs, which realize ideas of form, which with their organic presence are often reminiscent of delicate, fragile flowers.

For Baumann, building her vessels seems to be an activity with external and internal movement. Marks of her work process define the grace of the vessels, stable and fragile, and the interplay of material aesthetics, liveliness, lightness, light and colour elevates them to an energy-charged overall picture.

Colour is always a result of light. Colour is also al-



The pictures in the article show arrangements of plates, bowls, mugs and cups, made of thin porcelain, often with gold appliqués.





ways a sensual fact and a world of its own.

Baumann's coloured porcelain bodies often remind me of colour harmonies on baroque Austrian house facades. Coloured grey, light and dark grey, light and dark pink, in combination with white and gold, but without pomp, without flourishes, without drama, no vanitas attributes such as wilted flowers - on the contrary, her forms are full of splendour and delicate grace, representing a picture of her own era in all its splendour.

In keeping with the possible interpretation and origin of the word "baroque", derived from the Portuguese word "barroco", her forms grow unevenly and are full of life like a "crooked", "un-round pearl" and thus always in a family resemblance within her formal idiom.

From a few initial shapes she always creates new, different vessels.

From Poverty comes Wealth

The limitation of the initial elements in no way restricts the unlimitedness of the growing wealth of forms.

The variations join with combinations and so the stream of design begins to flow again and again, as her talent produces an inexhaustible number of similar or different examples.

The shaping of the porcelain, the way the deli-





cate shapes are formed, irregular finger marks, and soft, flowing edges as boundaries, emphasized with melted gold, guide us to a sensitive, careful use of the plates, cups and bowls in everyday life.

The sun shines in the gilded surfaces, just like in baroque facades, but without flourishes.

However, the light also reveals flaws and imperfections to us. Baumann highlights pinholes and other "errors in craftsmanship", covers such areas with gold and makes the imperfections shine, as if unique and special.

And we handle what is special with care and caution!

Familiar, everyday things take on a different aspect on the level of their specialness.

Seeing becomes contemplation and perhaps also touching, it becomes a sensual experience and realisation. Holding and feeling things in our hands allows us to feel something of the process of creation of things and it may awaken the desire to gather around a table with loved ones, grandly, invitingly set and decorated with porcelain by Andrea Baumann.

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is a ceramist, painter, lecturer and author.

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Andrea Baumann was born in 1961 in Lohr. From 1979 - 1982 she was a ceramic apprentice at the Ceramics Technical College in Landshut. From 1982 - 1989 she had a studio in Freiburg and from 1989 - 1996 she studied at the University of Applied Sciences in Kiel - Fine Art Ceramics with J. Gebhardt and R. Anger. As a student (1994) she also studied abroad - Mixed Media for two semesters at the MHS Reykjavik, Iceland.

After graduation, she worked as a freelance artist. 1998 - 2000 she studied Visual Design and Therapy at the ABK Munich.

Since 2003 she has had her own studio working in porcelain. She founded and managed the open studio at the Tyrolean State Museum - as a result she has been involved in social and public projects, children's and adult education. Numerous scholarships and prizes. Study and work stays in Central America, Africa, Iceland and India.

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