

Contemporary Ceramics Céramique Actuelle



The coloured bowls in the foreground are by Carola Gänslen, background right by Joachim Lambrecht

photos - Frank Kleinbach

... in the Lapidarium of Ludwigsburg Residential Palace

EVELYNE SCHOENMANN

Did you know that in Ludwigsburg, Baden-Württemberg in southwest Germany, former ducal seat and capital of the Duchy of Württemberg, the largest original Baroque palace complex in Germany is situated? There are 452 state rooms in 18 buildings as well as fabulous Baroque gardens and it is so elegant that it is sometimes called the “German Ver-

sailles”. And now you are wondering what this has to do with ceramics? Well, quite a lot! For instance, the Palace houses a first-rate ceramics collection with showpieces from five centuries. Here are some of the highlights: the study collection of Ludwigsburg porcelain comprising 2,000 pieces that gives us an impression of the lavish dining culture at court; rare, brilliantly coloured Italian majolica;

and last but not least, a wide range of different styles and techniques from the 19th and 20th centuries.

The ceramic present is hosted in the Palace every two years when the Baden-Württemberg crafts association, BdK, puts on its Keramikbiennale with local ceramists and guests from one other European country. The BdK, a nonprofit association for professionals from the

New work by Rebecca Maeder





Angela Munz



Vases by Ute Kathrin Beck, animals' heads by Caroline Andrin, mural installation by Sonja Duo-Meyer

Artists 2019

Switzerland: Caroline Andrin, Sonja Duò-Meyer, Gabrièle Gisi, Jacques Kaufmann, Rebecca Maeder, Laurin Schaub, Evelyne Schoenmann, Nathalie Schnider-Lang

Baden Württemberg: Ute Kathrin Beck, Carola Gänsslen, Markus Klausmann, Joachim Lambrecht, Angela Munz, Heide Nonnenmacher, Christof Söller, Elisa Stützle-Siegmund

fields of art, craft and design, stands for quality design and craftsmanship as well as a responsible approach to the use of materials and resources. The biennial exhibitions of contemporary ceramics have become an important meeting place for gallerists, collectors and those interested in art. In addition the Palace and gardens attract numerous visitors who are also able to enjoy the BdK ceramics exhibitions.

This top-drawer binational exhibition cycle began in 2012 with guests from Croatia. The exhibition took place in the classical elegance of the Attika Rooms in the Palace with its superb parquet flooring. In 2014, the exhibition with guest nation Finland followed in the same charming surroundings. In 2016 came the exhibition with ceramists from France as guests, which took place in the Palace's Hohenzollern apartments.

In the 2019 edition, Switzerland was the guest of the BdK's Ludwigsburg team and the exhibition venue was quite out of the ordinary – it was the Lapidarium of the Palace. Lapidarium (from Latin lapis = stone) stands for a collection of works in stone such as sculptures,

sarcophagi, epitaphs, milestones, which are often displayed where they were excavated. In Ludwigsburg Residential Palace, these include larger than life-size original sandstone figures of the gods, heroes, nymphs and creatures of fable, which once adorned the roofs, gables and gardens of the residence and now stand in the Lapidarium to protect them from the effects of the weather. This special location was for many a source of inspiration for new works made specifically for this site. At the official opening ceremony, the invitees were able for the first time to gain an impression of the ceramics in the context of the sandstone figures in the Lapidarium, and they were greatly amazed. Both the artists from Baden-Württemberg and from Switzerland astounded the visitors with their harmonious and atmospheric works, which fit in perfectly, almost blending entirely with their surroundings.

The opening ceremony was honoured by the presence of the Swiss Consul General in Stuttgart, Herr Thomas Casura, who together with the curator of the Landesmuseum Württemberg, Frau Dr. Maaike van Rijn and publisher Dirk

Allgaier, officially opened the exhibition. The ceremony was musically accompanied by improvisations from saxophonist Jochen Feucht. The guests were then served Swiss delicacies from kitchen and wine cellar, generously donated by the Swiss Consul General. At the subsequent dinner for the artists, which was also laid on by the Swiss Consulate, I heard exclusively positive and approving comments on this year's wonderful exhibition of Contemporary Ceramics.

In the name of all the Swiss exhibitors, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my special thanks to Heide Nonnenmacher, Ute Beck and Elisa Stützle-Siegmund of the BdK for the invitation and the flawless organisation and to all the participants from Baden Württemberg and Switzerland for their assistance and support. We were delighted to have this opportunity to represent this year's guest nation, Switzerland!

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