



29 June – 5 September 2019

## Jussi OJALA

### *Stumps*

**Opening Saturday 29 June from 6 p.m., in the presence of the artist.**

Considered one of the most experienced Swedish ceramic artists, Jussi Ojala (born 1956) became well known in Europe thanks to his "Stump" sculptures and their sumptuous foaming glazes always connected to nature and matter. In the last fifteen years, tree stumps have actually become for the artist this essential form on which to explore his ceramic creative process. The background of his garden as well as Swedish forests provides him with his inspiration. *"Moss growing on tree trunks or slowly rotting branches are not always beautiful, but I am interested in putrefaction. Beautiful or ugly, is that such an important distinction?"* the artist questions. *"My working process is complex and delicate; it comes with surprises and perpetual problems. I challenge the materials to their breaking point in order to get results that need to be understood and analysed. Often, what strikes me at first as an unpleasant surprise is what takes me further, giving me new directions and new angles. It can be a new structure or a new colour that only appears after several firings. It means constantly remaking through a long, slow process. What I seek is often hidden and unspoken. Little by little, over the course of time, the process reveals a myriad new discoveries, and the question becomes to know when the goal really is achieved."*

Jussi Ojala's sources of inspiration have also led him, over time, to produce sculptural forms evoking branches and twigs. However, for this first solo exhibition at Galerie de l'Ancienne Poste, his choice inclined toward a range of *Stumps* in twenty-seven variations created between September 2018 and May 2019. According to Ojala, *"The exhibition can be viewed like the pages of a journal that allows you to dive deep into eight months of ceramic creative process."*

Ojala has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands, Britain, Finland and Norway since his first show at Gallery Lejonet in Stockholm in 1988. He is represented at the Röhsska Museum in Gothenburg, the Nationalmuseum in Stockholm, the Royal Museums of Art and History in Brussels, the Sogn & Fjordane Art Museum in Førde, Norway, and at the Swedish Arts Council. His works are present in most major contemporary ceramics private collections.

**Press contact and photographs on request:**

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*Galerie de l'Ancienne Poste is open from Thursday to Sunday included, from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.*

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