

4 July – 6 September 2026

OCÉANE MADELAINE

Within the Subtle

Opening Saturday 4 July 2026 from 6 p.m., with the artist's presence



Océane Madelaine, Inscribed Jar, stoneware, Ht. 50 cm x Ø 21 cm.

For this new exhibition at Galerie de l'Ancienne Poste, ceramist and writer Océane Madelaine was first haunted by words, and by a title that soon imposed itself: *Dans le subtil* (*Within the Subtle*). The artist explains this choice and the essence of her approach:

"It was the desire to pay attention to the tenuous, the fragile, what quivers on the surface: traces, markings, lines, stains, faint vibrations in the material that move and stir us. *Subtil* comes from *sub*, "under", and *tela*, "web or canvas". One might be beneath the warp threads of a loom, beneath the words of a text, beneath the skin of clay. With the unshakable conviction that, in a brutal world, things also take place in the subtle, in secrecy – that something is working from below, despite ourselves, that pulses and resists, endlessly.

The search for the subtle took shape, as it always does for me, in containers: large bowls, boxes, but above all in jars, a new form I grew familiar with this winter. Guided by Michel Leiris' magical phrase: "Argile: j'y lis la jarre" ("in clay I read the jar", *Langage Tangage*), I in turn sought to read this form with my hands. To decipher its foot, curve, shoulder and neck, revealing an architecture at once minimal and ample, ancestral and powerful. No longer to shelter stores of wheat, oil or honey, but, I hope, subtle reserves of meaning".

Born in 1980 in the Drôme region of southeastern France, Océane Madelaine first studied literature before discovering ceramics during a stay in Morocco. Back in France, she set out to train at the CNIFOP in Saint-Amand-en-Puisaye (Nièvre, Central France), and later at Maison de la Céramique Dieulefit (Drôme). She further developed her practice through several residencies and training periods, notably with Eric Astoul in La Borne (Cher, Central France). Her discovery of the village of La Borne proved decisive and inspired her first novel, *D'Argile et de feu*, published in 2015. Since 2016, Océane Madelaine has lived and worked in Finistère, western Brittany. This new environment partly inspired her second novel, *L'anse des coquelicots*, published in 2020. Her ceramic practice – weaving a dialogue between material and writing – has gradually asserted itself over the years, establishing her as a French ceramicist of growing recognition.

Place de l'Hôtel de Ville 89130 TOUCY – Tél. : +33 (0)3 86 74 33 00

www.galerie-ancienne-poste.com

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.

**Since 1997, 90 minutes from Paris,
The best in contemporary ceramics.**