



Press Release

4 July – 3 September 2015

Erna Aaltonen

" *The Symphony of Spheres* "

Preview Saturday 4 July 2015, from 6 pm, in presence of the artist

For the past eighteen years, the Galerie de l'Ancienne Poste has dedicated itself to contemporary ceramics, and its reputation is now such that it is able to exhibit the most renowned artists. Hence the Galerie de l'Ancienne Poste is delighted to announce for the summer of 2015, an exceptional exhibition in France, that of the Finnish ceramist, Erna Aaltonen famous throughout the world for her hand- built spherical sculptures. The minimalist and elegant shapes of her pieces represent, for numerous international collectors, the quintessence of contemporary Finnish aesthetics. A contention reflected last November, when the artist received Finland's Grand Prix for Design and again this spring 2015 as she has just received in Italy the gold medal from Faenza's International Museum of Ceramics, as part of the International Biennale of Ceramics in Faenza.

Born in 1951 in Finland, where she followed a long cursus in design before specializing in ceramics in 1986, Erna Aaltonen opened her studio in Fiskars in a former blacksmiths' dating back to 1649. In 2001 the artist exhibited some pieces at the Finnish Institution in Paris. In 2006, she was noticed at the International Biennale of Vallauris and in 2007 an exhibition in the Carlin Gallery allowed her to enter the Parisian scene. Since then, an international career has led the artist to the United States and to various European Countries where the public have acclaimed the forms and colours of her very skilled work which the artist refers to thus " *Round and abstract, the sculptural forms fascinates me. They have always been at the centre of my work. I always make my pieces by hand from bands of clay that I join edge to edge. The work progresses slowly, layer by layer. I don't use a wheel nor potter's moulds. I've always been attracted by a variety of colours, and they feature prominently in my work particularly the colours and surfaces of the glazes, and the transformation that takes place in the kiln. The art of ceramics is for me the ideal occasion to combine as a whole, form, colour, and surface structure.*"

The works of Erna Aaltonen feature in numerous public and private collections in Europe, in the United States, China, Japan and Korea. A catalogue produced in collaboration with the journalist and art critic Guillaume Morel accompanies the exhibition which is the artist's first solo show in France.

Press contact and photographs on request

Isabelle BRUNELIN - contact@galerie-ancienne-poste.com

Place de l'Hôtel de Ville 89130 TOUCY – Tél./ Fax : 03 86 74 33 00

www.galerie-ancienne-poste.com

The Galerie de l'Ancienne Poste is open from Thursday to Sunday inclusive, from 10.00 to 12.30 am and from 3.00 to 7.00 pm

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