



7 November 2020 – 7 January 2021

Camille VIROT

LE MONDE DANS UN BOL THE WORLD IN A BOWL

**Opening Sunday 8 November 2020 from 11 a.m.,
in the presence of the artist**

Galerie de l'Ancienne Poste presents ceramic artist Camille Virot's third solo show, which will unveil some forty unreleased works. In this new phase of his creative journey, the bowl form comes back into focus, including the famous "Genesis bowl", revisited time and again.

"There are finished bowls and bowls in the making. But contrary to what should be, the timeline has been manipulated. From the very beginning, the 70s, I made "finished", normal bowls aligning with traditional Japanese and notoriously Zen raku bowls, thus unselfconsciously. In 1979, I titled a journal article "The world in a bowl", again unselfconsciously...

Then in the 2000s came the genesis bowls, which were a step backwards, back to the true origins: the bowl as a carved stone vessel, the emerging primary bowl, made and pieced together from "failed finished" bowls, crushed, ground, patched back together so as to make something new with the old – still my current concern. This means going back to a starting point and being accidentally in line with the present trend of recycling.

But keeping to a ceramic universe, thus sensitive rather than intelligible and rational, the genesis bowls appear within a sedimentary environment where the successive ritual actions give substance to differentiated strata, yet which interact and interfere with each other or counter one another. The whole piece is then transfigured, fixed into place and shaken up by the firings, multiplied and repeated frequently like volcanic hiccups.

As for today's "finished bowls", they seem both like usual bowl abstractions and manoeuvrable images – kinds of monotype prints with a right side and a reverse side, a front and a back, some lips, a belly and a foot, thus beings that look slightly like us, somewhat reminiscent of the bowls Onisaburo used to shape, they say, while staring at a live model." (Camille Virot, preliminary thoughts on the exhibition in Toucy).

Camille Virot was born in 1947 in Franche-Comté. He pursued studies in ceramics at the School of Fine Arts in Besançon, then at the Decorative Arts School in Strasbourg. In 1972, the artist opened a studio in Haute-Provence where he practiced Raku. Since 1976, he has been dividing his time between didactic work (workshops and contributions in art schools) and the pursuit of a personal plastic expression relying on Japanese Raku's traditional data. As of 1990, he combined other materials with ceramics. In 2018, he was featured among the guests of Avignon's Parcours de l'Art and presented a much-noticed installation entitled "15 TÊTES & 50 états transitoires" ("15 HEADS & 50 transitory states") inside the Church of the Célestins.

Camille Virot's works are featured in numerous museums, FRAC (Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain) and private collections.

A catalogue will accompany the exhibition.

Press contact and photographs on request:

Isabelle BRUNELIN - + 33 (0)6 76 10 47 79 contact@galerie-ancienne-poste.com

Place de l'Hôtel de Ville F-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.

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