



Press Release

9 march - 5 may 2016

Camille VIROT

New Works

Opening Saturday 19 March 2016 from 6 pm, in the presence of the artist

This Spring 2016, the Galerie of the Ancienne Poste in Toucy which is devoted exclusively to Contemporary ceramics, is pleased to showcase the ceramic works of Camille Virot, a leading figure in the practise of Raku in France, and one of the rare artists in this discipline to figure in the public and private collections of contemporary art including the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (FNAC). He today counts an international audience.

The exhibition will present two focuses of Camille Virot's present work expressed by the artist himself as follows :

"One being a faithfulness to Japanese Raku, a faithfulness which consists of going beyond formalism and sliding into the voice of the material itself.

The second being a faithfulness to passed evocations, a return to ancient shapes, ancient in my own "landscape" but also in the attics of humanity: bowls, boxes, bracelets, masks, mascots... And thereby revisiting memories, refreshing them and adapting them to my language of today, and as with Raku allowing all or nearly all.

In both cases, make almost anything, re-make and re-make it just until the desired and unexpected 'thing' becomes obvious."

The exhibition presents twenty or so new pieces, the majority of which were made last year.

Born in 1947 in France-Comté, Camille Virot studied ceramics at Besançon Beaux-Arts and then at the 'Arts Décoratifs' in Strasbourg. In 1972, he opened a workshop in Haute-Provence where he practises Raku. Since 1976, the artist has divided his time between educational work (courses and interventions in art schools) and the pursuit of a personal plastic expression which is based on the traditional criteria of Japanese Raku. In 1985, along with Pascaline Virot-Marini he created the Publishing ARGiles. He has also published books devoted to reflections on contemporary ceramics, in 2009, "L'atelier Camille Virot"(Camille Virot's workshop) and "Huit artistes et la Terre" (Eight Artists and Clay) a publication which is today considered to be one of the major writings on ceramic art.

Instigator of a programme of meetings supported by the Minister of Culture (1991 – 1995) between European ceramists and African potters, Camille Virot was responsible for the itinerant exhibition 'Poterie Nègre', which reassembled as a collection has, now, been integrated into the documentary data base of the Confluence Museum in Lyon.

Since 1990, Camille Virot has been combining other materials with clay.

Press contact and photographs on request

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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

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