



24 March – 3 May, 2018

David Roberts *The Meaningful Vessel*

Opening Saturday, 24 March, 2018 from 6 p.m., with the artist's presence

Recognized as the ultimate reference in European "Naked Raku", ceramic artist David Roberts has had few exhibitions in France in spite of being internationally renowned for his large-sized bulbous forms, a purely western interpretation of the original Japanese tradition.

Born in 1947 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, David Roberts was originally trained as an art teacher in the 1960s. He soon took an interest in ceramics and was initiated in the 1970s to the Raku technique originating from small-scale vessels made for the Tea Ceremony in late sixteenth-century Japan. Roberts introduced and promoted modern Raku in Europe and also contributed to its reintroduction in the United States, where his example has played a key role in the foundation of the "Naked Raku" movement, thus named because of the bare clay surface with no glaze whatsoever.

Through his personal exploration, Roberts has transformed this traditional technique into a vibrant and contemporary art form. The process has enabled him to engage with pictorial expressions related to the landscape, in particular his native Yorkshire hills covered with dry stonewalls, paths and tracks that contour and traverse the scenery, rendered here through marks generated by his drawings and by the firing processes. The inspiration for these metaphorical, abstract marks recently shifted to Milford Sound in South Island, New Zealand. During one of his visits there, the artist experienced the result of days of torrential rain: massive rocks and mountains rising straight from the sound to well over a thousand meters being transformed into one gigantic, powerful waterfall. His recent vessels' positive and negative, black and white linear markings thus echo the flows and ripples of water, while textures represent the erosions and geology of rocks and earth. A meaningful and deeply expressive statement for the artist, who aims to create new ceramics that carry a vision clearly anchored within the twenty-first century, as evidenced by the fifteen pieces gathered in the exhibition and created in the course of last year.

Press contact and photographs on request:

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The 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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