

GALERIE
DE L'ANCIENNE
POSTE

7 september - 7 november 2024

Opening Saturday 7 september 2024 from 6 pm in the presence of the artist

ICARO MAITERENA

Dancing with clay

Galerie de l'Ancienne Poste is pleased to present the Spanish ceramic artist Ícaro Maiterena's first solo show in France. Born in Madrid in 1978, he has become increasingly recognized throughout Europe with his fascinating works that owe as much to geology as biology. The exhibition features a selection of 25 works created between 2020 and 2024.

"Kneading clay is a way for Ícaro Maiterena to return to the origins and to what truly matters; to (re)connect with the world, with nature and others, and embed himself within an ancestral tradition by replicating gestures that countless others have performed before him.

It is also, and above all, an act of resistance against the excesses of an era obliviously lost in virtual reality. Creating is a political and social act, a celebration of handcraft, and an invitation to take the time to create, to observe, and reflect.

About twenty years ago, while studying at the Art and Design School of Madrid, Ícaro Maiterena worked with stone, wood and plaster, but soon found himself marvelling at the infinite possibilities of clay. He sees it as a living, organic material best suited to bring his artist's dreams to life."

"I am inspired by orogenesis, the geological processes that deform and fracture the Earth's crust, giving rise to folds and creases through powerful compressions", Ícaro Maiterena explains. A cross between infinite vortices and Möbius strips, his abstract creations instantly fascinate with the strangeness of their shape, their eroded rock or burnt wood texture and their iridescent, almost surreal colour palette, shifting between warm and cool hues. Some of his pieces resemble fossils, while others are reminiscent of the forever frozen movement of a cooled lava flow.

To the Spanish ceramicist, featured for the first time in France at Galerie de l'Ancienne Poste, the magic of a work of art lies in its mystery. "Art slips through our fingers when we think we have grasped it", he says beautifully. More than the finished object, it is the creative process that captivates Ícaro Maiterena. His pieces bear witness to a time that no longer exists. Each carries within it the sensitive memory of how it came to be: the emotion of a close encounter with the material, of a "choreographed dance with clay and water".

Guillaume Morel, journalist and art critic.

Graduate in Fine Arts from the UCM in Madrid, Ícaro Maiterena was a Master Stonemason between 1997 and 2013, Set designer and artistic director of different projects in the field of performing arts from 2008 to 2023. Maiterena works with different artistic languages ; video creation, experimental cinema, photography, installation, performance, scenography, sculpture, drawing, engraving, circus and dance. Art-educator and teacher, teaching classes at the Moncloa Ceramics School of the Madrid City Council between 2018 and 2023. He has held a large number of group and individual exhibitions in Spain, Korea, Switzerland, Palestine, France, United Kingdom, Russia, Italy, United States, Portugal, Holland, Latvia.

2nd prize in the "XVIII International Contemporary Ceramics Award" (2023). Winner of the Prix Fondation Bruckner (2022). 2nd Prize in the Contemporary Ceramics category at the 10th International Ceramics Biennial "Ciudad de Talavera" (2021). Bruckner Foundation Residency Award at Officine Saffi Award 4 (2021).

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.