

## THE *FUTURE LIGHTS* AMBASSADORS IN CERAMICS 2015/2016 AT THE *AMBIENTE* TRADE FAIR IN FRANKFURT (12–16 February 2016)

Категорија чланка: приказ



The *Future Lights in Ceramics* stand for innovative and creative young artists, designers, art historians, historians, and scientists. The *Future Lights* competition forms part of the *Ceramics and its Dimensions* project, led by Porzellanikon, Bavaria's National Museum of Porcelain, and co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union and the JECs-Trust of the European Ceramics Society. *Future Lights* is co-organised by the British Ceramics Biennial, the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland and Staffordshire University. In this review, I will present the selected *Future Lights* ambassadors, focusing on their works presented at the *Ambiente* trade fair in Frankfurt. Sculptural and designers' works were exhibited, as well as one example of architectural ceramics. These are the works that I will address below.

Each year, recent graduates from all around Europe are invited to apply for the *Future Lights* competition. They are expected to outline their experience and respond to the year's theme. In 2015, the *Future Lights* theme was architectural ceramics, in 2016, it is "incorporating the qualities of hand-crafted work or folk art traditions into industrially produced ceramics". Applicants must be resident in EU or associated states at the time of application. There is no age limit, but they

should have completed their full-time studies within the last five years. Winners are offered an opportunity to showcase their work at high-profile events e.g. *Ambiente* consumer goods trade fair, and through the wider *Ceramics and its Dimensions* project. They are also invited to attend a workshop where they may collaborate across disciplines, developing new work that responds to a specific design brief (e.g. at The Wedgwood Museum (Barlaston factory), The Spode Museum Trust, Staatliche Porzellan-Manufaktur Meissen GmbH (Meissen Porcelain Manufactory)). Wilhelm Siemen, Director of the Porzellanikon, emphasized: "The *Future Lights* competition is designed to build new bridges and provide a platform for recent graduates to further their careers." International ceramics competition *Future Lights* reflects multicultural lifestyles. It supports cultural exchange and an engagement in exploring multicultural influences in ceramics throughout Europe, which is an important focus of the *Ceramics and its Dimensions* project. "The project aims at connecting European cultural institutions, industry, science and technology in the field of ceramics and porcelain, as well as documenting the use of ceramics in different European geographical, historical and cultural contexts [...]."

The works of the *Future Lights* ambassadors Kate Haywood, Kristina Rutar, and Emily Stapleton-Jefferis presented at the *Ambiente* trade fair in Frankfurt explore artistic and sculptural possibilities of ceramics.

**Kate Haywood** (UK) often references aspects of ritual, ceremony and adornment, her work explores our relationship with objects and how they can allow us to form and trigger memories. At *Ambiente* she exhibited the work *Pommel*, where the material and the process were combined to create a non-verbal dialogue. "Visual clues are generated from specific combinations of colour, form and scale. Individual components evoke readings which are multi-layered and material qualities are intensified when viewed in relation to a range of contrasting physical traits." **Kristina Rutar** (Slovenia) exhibited the *Embryo* series, where she explored the variety of interpretations that the human body form offered. "She alters and combines the wheel-thrown forms and breaks their functionality to reinterpret them into a sculpture. When breaking the rules of the used medium, she tries to turn objects into artefacts and reactivate the mediums characteristics." **Emily Stapleton-Jefferis's** (UK) work *Untitled* is inspired by drawings she made from her Grandmother's kitchen shelves and spoon draws – "heaps and stacks of utensils, vessels and spoons in such intriguing shapes and sizes, raising thoughts of purpose and history". She is inspired to look at everyday objects and reinterpret them in new ways, stimulating people to see the beauty in the mundane.

Yuka Kikumoto, Beth Lewis-Williams, Francesca Romei, and Attis Šnēvelis focus more strongly on ceramic design.

**Yuka Kikumoto** (Japan) exhibited her Master's project, *The Mochi Tea Set*, which was inspired by the Japanese rice cake, *Kagami Mochi*. *The Mochi Tea Set* exhibited at *Ambiente* consists of four components: a teapot body, a mug cup, an infuser, and a lid. "She considers that most vessels need

to have more than one useful and simple function with the exception of container. All her works are concentrated in how people actually use objects. Her ambition is making indispensable and enriching objects for people's lives." **Beth Lewis-Williams** (UK) is a designer and a maker specializing in bespoke porcelain lighting. At *Ambiente*, she exhibited *Lights, Lithophanes & Landscapes*, which "is a collection of porcelain lighting, which exploits the traditional and mysterious technique of lithophanes. [...] They explore urban scenes contrasting current social, environmental, and aesthetic scenes with those of the romantic landscapes featured on 19<sup>th</sup>-century industrially produced domestic ceramics." **Francesca Romei** (Italy) presented the *GR\_EGG\_egg separator, Dolly teapot, and SanaCORE\_ceramic heart / wall vase*. The very clever design *GR\_EGG\_egg separator* cracks an eggshell on the provided side and then pours the content inside a ceramic egg-separator. *SanaCORE\_ceramic heart / wall vase* is a vase in the shape of a heart. "In Buddhism, the human heart is not only the seat of feelings, but also the place where all thoughts are made, where determination or discouragement arises." **Attis Šnēvelis** (Latvia) presented a decorative solution in architecture. "The artwork is developed as a stylistically and technically innovative lighting system, with a possibility to adapt for interior and exterior use. The visual solution is based on porcelain component layout, structured on interaction of geometrical shapes, where shapes arraying synchronously create another greater shape with its own space and depth."

The works of the *Future Lights* ambassadors in Ceramics 2015/2016 – Kate Haywood, Yuka Kikumoto, Beth Lewis-Williams, Francesca Romei, Kristina Rutar, Emily Stapleton-Jefferis, and Attis Šnēvelis – at *Ambiente* – showed the diversity of exploration in the field of ceramic art. They revealed the artists' interest in self-understanding and developing new concepts and technologies all around the world.

## REFERENCE LIST

### Internet / Websites

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 Yuka Kikumoto, website: <http://www.yukakikumoto.com/>  
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