

35th Austrian Ceramics Market in Gmunden 2023

CHRISTOPH HASENBERG

Like every August, Gmunden once again became the centre of outstanding European ceramics, and the ceramics city transformed itself into a wide and vibrant stage for contemporary craft pottery and ceramic art before a breathtaking backdrop on Traunsee lake.

One hundred and thirty exhibitors presented their works, offering a unique opportunity for a comprehensive overview of the European ceramics scene.

The Gmunden Pottery Market, which gives its audience the setting and atmosphere of an impressive outdoor exhibition for ceramic crafts and art, took place for the 35th time, albeit with thunderstorms at night.

This year, special attention was paid to Polish ceramists from the current scene. The group exhibition of the guest country was presented in traditional fashion on Thursday at Orth Castle and the personal exhibition, 45 Years of Barbara Reisinger Ceramics, was opened at the K-Hof, Kammerhof Museum. This notable exhibition spans a wide range of her ceramic work and will be on view until 15 October 2023.

This ceramics market has been steadily growing and thriving for 35 years, a success story that has long since reached the top league of European ceramics events.

Eva Fürtbauer, Gmunden Urban Development, now leads the team - Ceramic City of Gmunden - knowledgeably, confidently and with the necessary foresight. Peter Fröhlich, ceramist from



Town Hall Sentinels, Ute Naue-Müller

Graz, has been at her side from the beginning of the Gmunden pottery market. His decades of experience, his internal and external perspective on the European ceramics scene are a guarantee for a careful selection of crafts that successfully meet all the craftsmanship criteria in the tableware sector as well as

artistic aspects in ceramic fine art.

As a former teacher and lecturer in ceramics in Graz, Fröhlich also has a keen eye for young European ceramists.

But selecting young, talented potters is not always easy.

Design standards and quality craftsmanship should always come first here

Impressions in Blue, Ute and Arno Hasenteufel





Good Mood, Thomas Berkold



Lake View, Elena Arosio

too, even before any meaningful regional reference.

In particular, the outdated structures of old craft guild regulations and conventions seem to me to be a hindrance at this point, not conducive to young talents who can and must develop their freedom in art and craft, irrespective of quality. Even established, international ceramics markets need young, passionate ceramists.

Ceramics events and pottery markets are always a place to meet people. There is often a collective exchange of experiences, a sense of belonging, appreciation, criticism and very personal perspectives.

In this context, schools of ceramics attending the markets would be useful and beneficial, even on an international scale.

Ceramics students and students from European ceramics schools could gain their first experience early on and become acquainted with a significant part of being a ceramist.

The ceramics city of Gmunden is now creating further opportunities for exchange.

CITY OF CERAMICS - Ceramics
Between Time and Space - 2023-2024

“Under the title Ceramics Between Time and Space, Gmunden wants to continue to live up to its established reputation as a ceramics city on a contemporary level. Here, projects combine art and craft, theory and practice, inspira-

tion and innovation. This creates a sustainable Austrian centre of excellence for ceramics, providing international relevance - based in the Salzkammergut.”

Press release from the city of Gmunden

Over the coming year, international exhibitions, conferences and competitions will take place under the above title. The first exhibitions, All about Vessel, show a historical overview of ceramic art from early Modernism to the present:

Masters of Modernism like Pablo Picasso, Fausto Melotti, Lucie Rie as well as contemporary, established artists such as Lindsey Mendick and Edmund de Waal.

Eternal Feminine is the title of the following exhibition. Senis Awa Camara and Leilah Babirye are African artists who are internationally successful.

Here the “feminine” is treated as a kind of divine perspective; the focus is on the haptics of the medium of clay - the body.

Clay/Volution

In this global group exhibition, works by Lucio Fontana, Erwin Wurm, Ron Nagle and Red Ekks (Robert Rasmussen) show the limits of the ceramic medium, often provocatively or politically.

The future of ceramics will be discussed at the international conferences from 23 - 26 May 2024.

Parallel to these outstanding exhibi-

tions and events, Gmunden highlights the city's ceramic importance with other events and initiatives on an international level.

Gmunden, already recognized as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO, is currently applying for inclusion in UNESCO Creative Cities in 2023. A further step was the admission to the International Academy of Ceramics in Geneva.

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Edelweiß, Johanna Hitzler

