

Portfolio



LAURENT CRASTE

Sculpteur-Ceramicist
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IN THE ELEGANT and classically inspired porcelain work of Laurent Craste, the disciplines to be examined appear to be decorative craft and sculptural art: "My practice is located at the border of two areas: the decorative arts and visual arts. The inspiration and process - and the realisation that I myself am the artisan - place my works in the decorative arts." This feeling of material and the obvious reference to classic ceramic work emphasises Laurent's craft identity. But then "the 'intervention' toggles the status of the work to sculpture, and my own status as a craftsman to that of artist."

So it is in the defining moment of creation that the line is crossed: "This merger takes place through a series of transgressions: the physical shock of a workman's tool into the luxury of china and the tactile shock of tearing wounds into the sensuous curves of the vase join the conceptual shock of brutal violence on the purity of classical beauty." Again, the material questions are confronted by the conceptual.

"The surreal style of my works is born of this game between opposing qualities: the hardness of the porcelain and the softness of the form or the inertia of the object and the allure of anthropomorphising the collapsing objects. Even the dramatic nature of the 'interventions' is set against the comical aspect of the final form." By manipulating not only disciplinary but also stylistic lines, Laurent creates the ultimate blend: "I would characterize my work as tragicomic."

