

# ANDRÉ BORDERIE

Preview november 6th thursday 2014

November 7th friday - December 6th Saturday 2014

**For the autumn season, the Jousse Entreprise gallery has chosen to present its second exhibition devoted to the ceramic work of André Borderie (1923-1998). As a quintessential figure in French ceramics in the 1950s and 1960s, this new presentation emphasizes some of his unique pieces brought together for their sculptural quality.**

André Borderie, who was encouraged and oriented towards painting by the poster designer Paul Colin, was interested in sculpture and mural art in all its forms. In this show, ceramics are given pride of place for their sculptural aspect but also for their utilitarian and domestic look: tables, vases, lamps, and ashtrays all conjure up an abstraction of the typical forms of the 1950s, as well as the communal life which André Borderie shared in his early days with Véra and Paul Székely, a couple of artists of Hungarian origin. This communal experience, embarked upon in 1948 at Bures-sur-Yvette, then at Marcoussis, represented a key moment in his artistic career. The ceramic pieces are jointly signed Borderie-Székely, and were exhibited at the M.A.I. gallery on Rue Bonaparte, where the furniture designed by Charlotte Perriand and Jean Prouvé was also on view. The works mix the Slavic origins of the Székelys and Borderie's religious faith, picture-book and folkloric themes being at that time still very much in fashion in the French ceramics of the postwar years. In no time the threesome stood apart and adopted a sparer aesthetic: outlines became sinuous, clad in a thick and generous enamel, and the decoration became stylized in networks of abstract lines.

The pieces on view at the Jousse Entreprise gallery were designed solely by André Borderie in his Senlis studio after the community broke up in 1957. His formal world, fuelled by an observation of nature, gained in both simplification and monumentality: large tapering bowls, spherical "Light heads", boxes, globular vases and pebble forms, were made in stoneware, with grogged clay which develops a rough and mineral outer skin, with an occasional network of thin cracks. This intellectual rigour recurs even in the glazing of quasi monochrome pieces, playing on subtle contrasts of matt and shiny effects sometimes broken by touches of warm colours: orange-reds, his favourite colour, and grey-blue glazes which illustrate the contribution of Miro's painting.

In 1955, persuaded that art should improve people's lives in the city, André Borderie took part in the activities of the *Espace* group which brought together internationally renowned artists and architects. Bonded by the architect, theoretician and plastic artist André Bloc, founder of the magazine *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui* (1930) and *Art d'Aujourd'hui*, which in 1955 became *Aujourd'hui*, the brief of the *Espace* group was to promote the synthesis of art and technique. As part of the 1% budget for art (in public buildings), Borderie followed this path by creating sculptures made of steel and concrete, large mural bas-reliefs in glazed terra cotta or mosaic for public buildings. In 1962, at the invitation of François Mathey, he designed for the exhibition *Antagonismes 2 L'Objet* at the Museum of Decorative Arts a series of utilitarian works—coat-stand and lamp-stand—associated with small architectures. His monumental environmental sculpture is presented in the exhibition by a selection of maquettes and scale models.

His interest in ceramics lasted until the 1970s. In tandem, André Borderie embarked in the late 1950s on an oeuvre involving textiles, in a lyrical and abstract language close to his painting, invariably with a small colour range. Encouraged by Denise Majorelle, co-director with Madeleine David of the *Le Demeure* gallery, and the painter Michel Tourlière, he designed several tapestry cartoons for the Manufactures nationales des Gobelins, as well as the factory at Beauvais, and the Aubusson workshops. His textile work was shown in several solo and group shows alongside Mathieu Matégot. In 1962, he was awarded the "Grand prix national de la tapisserie".

For this exhibition, a catalogue will be published with the help of Serge Lemoine, accompanied by accounts from artists and architects. KL

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André Borderie, céramiques

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