

CRASTE, LAURENT

ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

For the past several years, I have done studio work, creating one-of-a-kind pieces that are formally and symbolically based on historical archetypes. My works are sacred objects. Their architecture is based on the structure of ritual objects from antiquity or Christian liturgy, such as the Greek kylix or the Christian chalice, constructed according to principles of symmetry and elevation. Conversely, in a conceptual way, I explore issues such as scientific dogmatism or identity definition. The iconography of my work, which evokes our genetic heritage and biological nature, refers us back to much more contemporary concerns—scientific and ethical issues. In our quest for answers to life's questions, hasn't science superseded religion?



LAURENT CRASTE
“Precieux Sang”
earthenware, glazes

CURRICULUM VITAE:

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:

- 1996-1997 Professional degree in ceramics. Centre de Céramique / Poterie Bonsecours - Montreal, Quebec.
- 1991-1993 Master in Physiology and Anatomy, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec.
- 1987-1991 Degree in veterinary medicine. École Nationale Vétérinaire de Maisons Alfort - France.

SELECTED RECENT EXHIBITIONS:

- 2002 - 2004 Caractères - presented in seven Arts Centres, Montreal, Quebec.
- 2002 20 years of presence and passion - Gallery of the Centre de Céramique Bonsecours, Montreal
Biennale Nationale de Céramique / National Biennial of Ceramics Autoportrait - Galerie du Parc, Trois-Rivières, Quebec; Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, Waterloo, Ontario
Collection - Gallery of the Centre de Céramique Bonsecours, Montreal
Prix François Houdé en France - Arts Center of Brouage, Jonzac and La Rochelle, France
- 2001 8 ceramists, 8 teachers - Gallery of the Centre de Céramique Bonsecours, Montreal
At Present - Queen's Gallery and Art Gallery, Charlotte, NC, USA
À Présent - Musée du Haut-Richelieu (Haut-Richelieu Museum), Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec
Entre deux rives - Arts Center of Brouage, Jonzac and La Rochelle, France.
- 2000 Lectures Plurielles - Haut-Richelieu Museum, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec.
Plural Readings - Shwayder Gallery, as part of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA), Denver, Colorado, USA.
- 1999 Les nouvelles consultations de la Pythie: oracles génétiques (The new consultations of the Pythie: genetic oracles) - Gallery of the Centre de Céramique Bonsecours, Montreal

Laurent Craste lives in Montreal and works as professional ceramist and sculptor. He is the Laureate of the Winifred Shantz Award endowed by the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery in 2002. He has been awarded grants by the Quebec Arts Council and has been a finalist several times for the François-Houdé Prize of the city of Montreal, after which his works were purchased by the city.