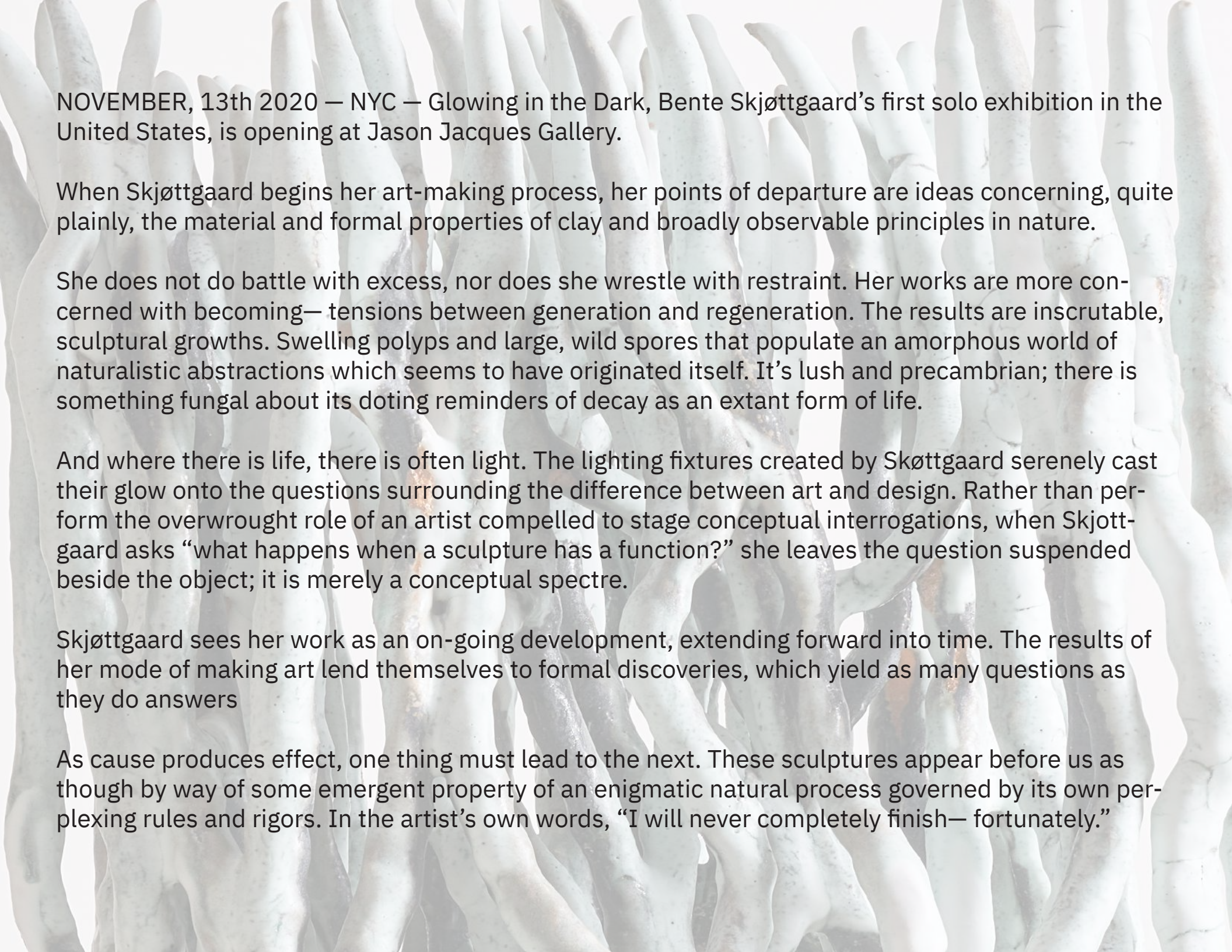




GLOWING IN THE DARK
BENTE SKJØTTGAARD





NOVEMBER, 13th 2020 — NYC — Glowing in the Dark, Bente Skjøttgaard's first solo exhibition in the United States, is opening at Jason Jacques Gallery.

When Skjøttgaard begins her art-making process, her points of departure are ideas concerning, quite plainly, the material and formal properties of clay and broadly observable principles in nature.

She does not do battle with excess, nor does she wrestle with restraint. Her works are more concerned with becoming— tensions between generation and regeneration. The results are inscrutable, sculptural growths. Swelling polyps and large, wild spores that populate an amorphous world of naturalistic abstractions which seems to have originated itself. It's lush and precambrian; there is something fungal about its dotting reminders of decay as an extant form of life.

And where there is life, there is often light. The lighting fixtures created by Skjøttgaard serenely cast their glow onto the questions surrounding the difference between art and design. Rather than perform the overwrought role of an artist compelled to stage conceptual interrogations, when Skjøttgaard asks "what happens when a sculpture has a function?" she leaves the question suspended beside the object; it is merely a conceptual spectre.

Skjøttgaard sees her work as an on-going development, extending forward into time. The results of her mode of making art lend themselves to formal discoveries, which yield as many questions as they do answers

As cause produces effect, one thing must lead to the next. These sculptures appear before us as though by way of some emergent property of an enigmatic natural process governed by its own perplexing rules and rigors. In the artist's own words, "I will never completely finish— fortunately."

STANDING SCULPTURES







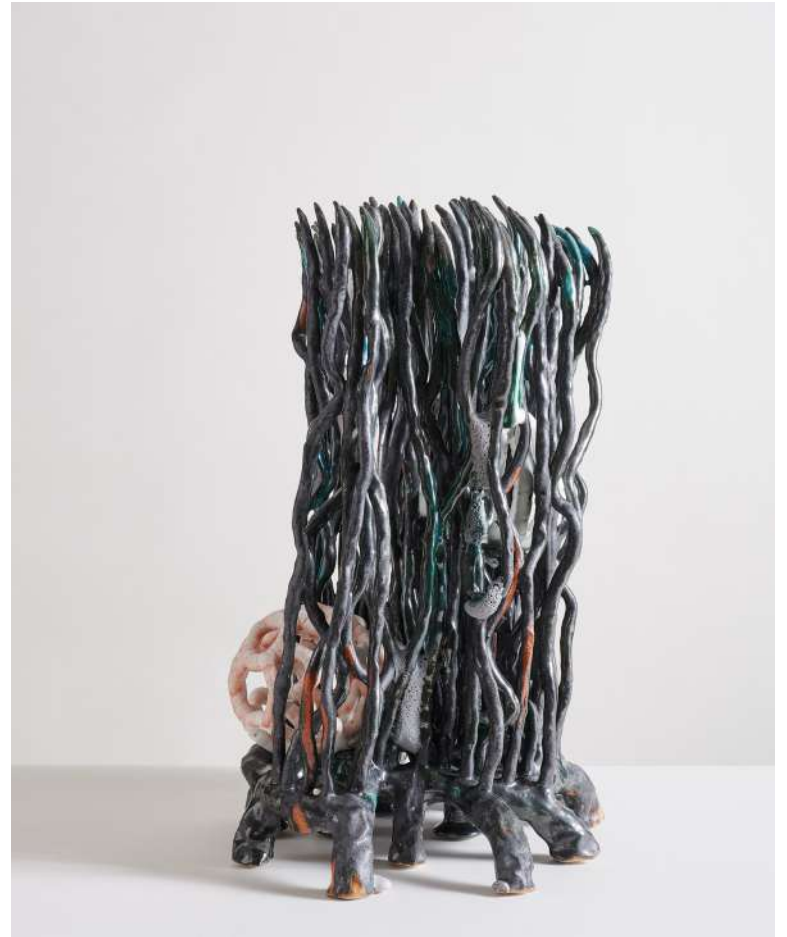


JJG: You've named a few sculptures after carbon molecules and it seems as though you work with small, microscopic objects expanded to a human scale. Could you give us some insight on that?

Bente: The inspiration is taken from nature and semi-scientific references are seized, from the smallest microscopic molecular structures to intangible weather phenomena - storms, clouds, waves, jellyfish. It is not a direct narrative description or figuration, but a use of themes, structures, or other natural references to emphasize the poetic or dramatic potential of clay and glaze.

For example. I was looking to construct a round spherical structure and came across (on the web) the C60 fullerene, which is a molecule consisting of 60 carbon atoms, arranged in the same shape as a football. The C60 is also called the world's most beautiful molecule. - Perhaps widespread in the universe in the interstellar dust that is found in large quantities in the space between the stars of the Milky Way!



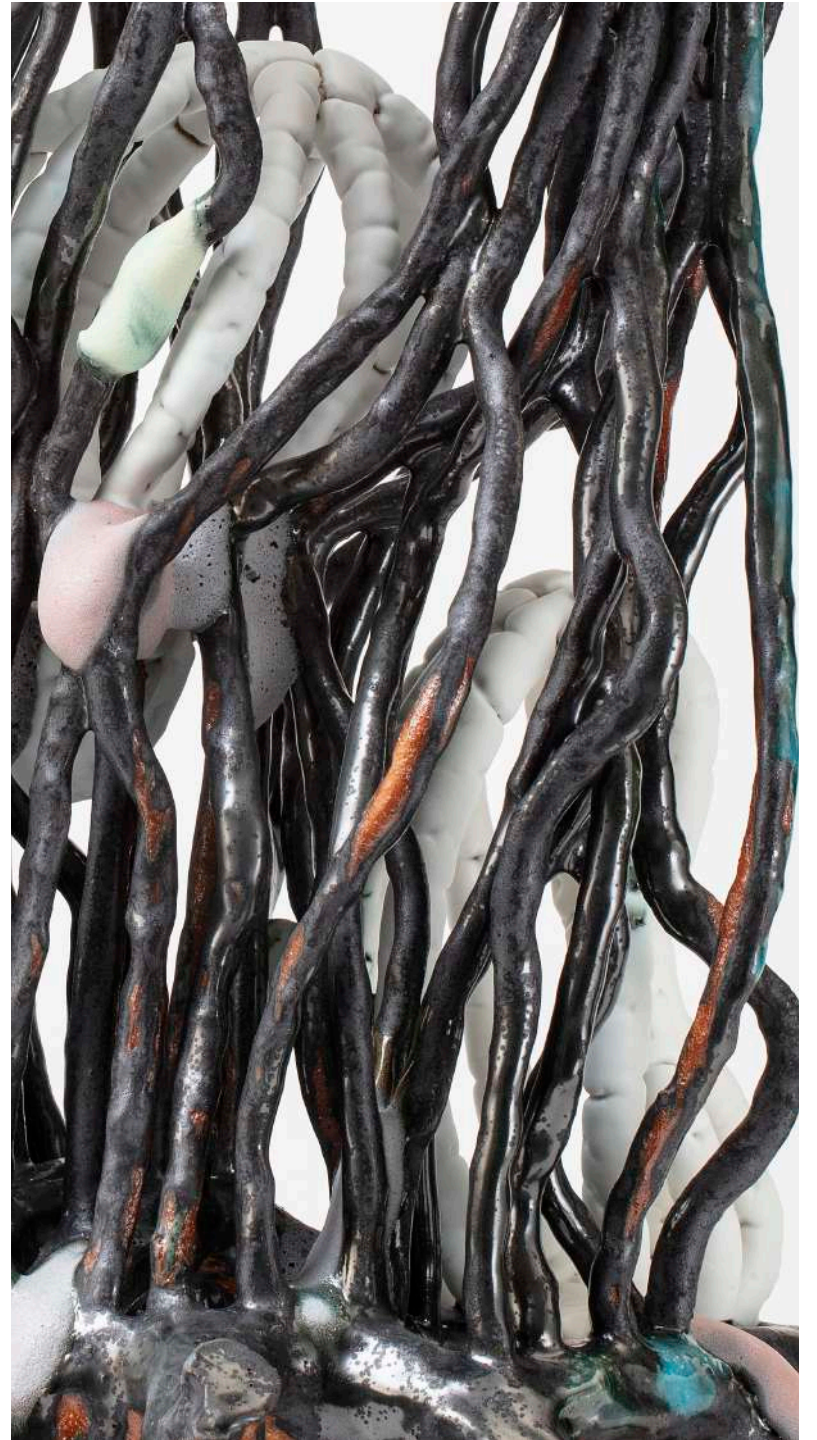














“I was a creative child and got support from my mother who was a kindergarten teacher. I was born in the 60s, and here you were not so busy making a career, rather unfolding your musical talents. I went to various folk high schools and made ceramics and sewed clothes etc. before I applied to the School of Arts and Crafts in Kolding. I did not consider whether I wanted to be an artist but followed my desires and what I was good at. Since I graduated in 1986, I have worked continuously as a ceramist. - i.e. I have been dealing with clay continuously for almost 40 years!”

-Bente Skjottgaard

“My works flirt with the beautiful but dangerous nature— the duality. Beneath the seductive glazes lies the threat of chaos and possible collapse. I am painfully aware that I cannot save the world with ceramics, but my works are my language.

I use not only the glaze as a surface, but also as a self-forming material. Based on many years of experience, experimentation, and thousands of glaze samples, I work quite freely, but constantly challenge myself and my material to new limits of what is possible. In a way, everything I do is an experiment. If I am too much in control, I immediately start to get bored. It is a bit of a cliché, but it must be exciting to open the kiln every time. I want the works to seem to be made with a “light hand”, even though sometimes an insanely difficult engineering work precedes. The loss of control at the high temperatures, where everything becomes soft again in the kiln, gives the works natural movement and independent life.”











WALL SCULPTURES

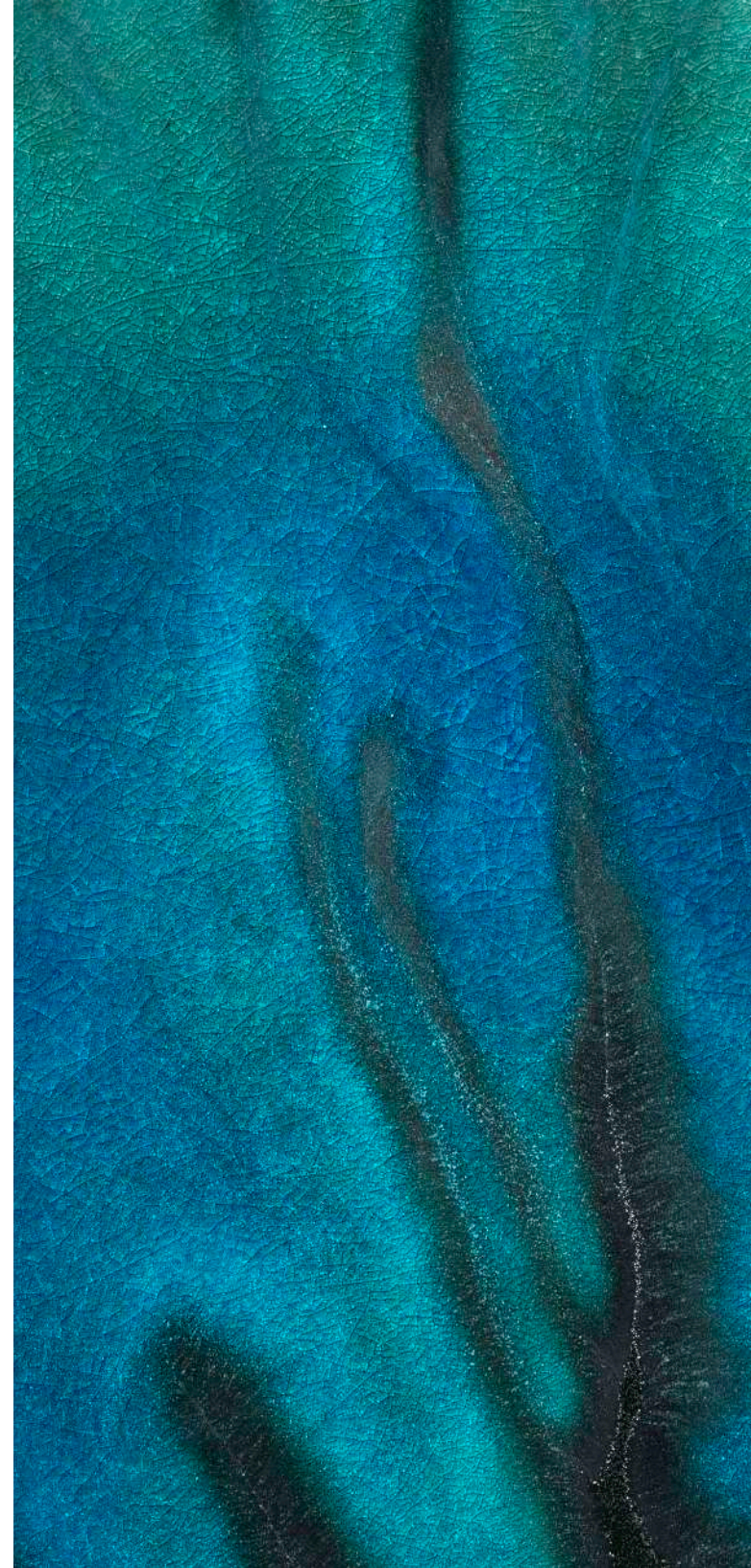




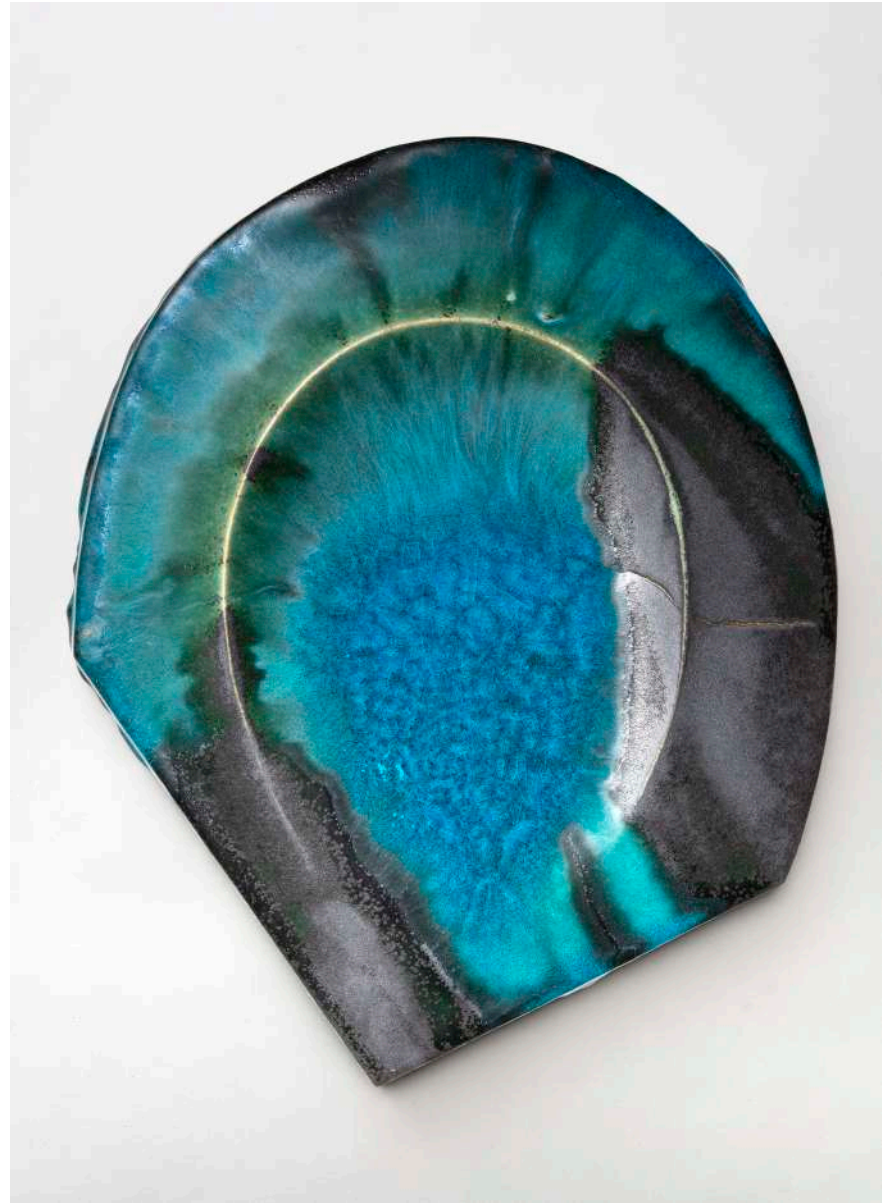




“In Jason Jacques’ highly scenographic black gallery, I want to create an exhibition that must be both poetic and dramatic. The experience must be like being on the bottom of the sea surrounded by strange organic plants and beings. Some of the sculptures glow in the dark.”







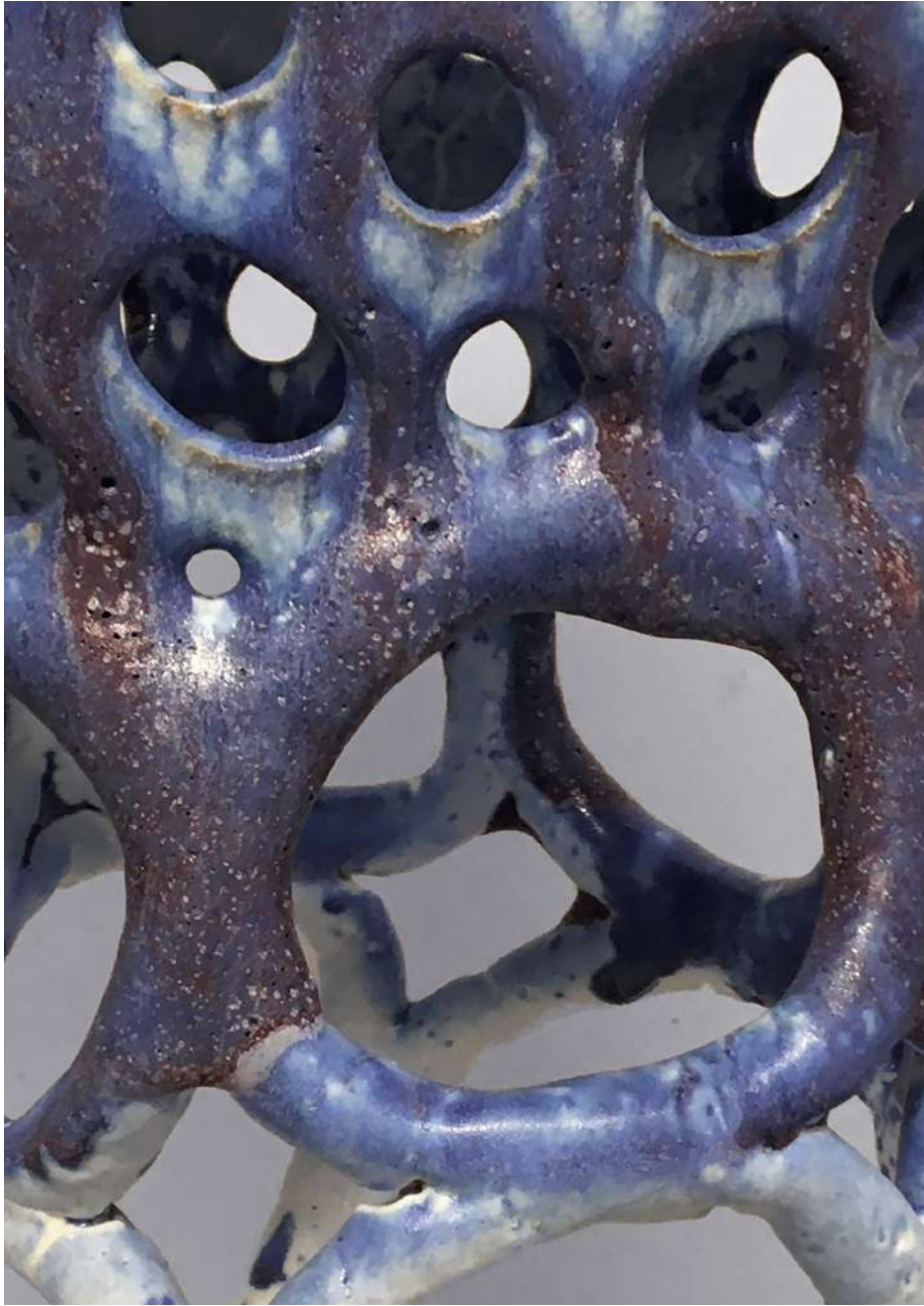
LAMPS



“The Bell lamps are not design objects but sculptures with light in them. I got the idea for the “lamps” together with Jason when we looked at my first Ernst Haeckel inspired sketches together. Or the little oval-shaped transparent comb jelly *Mnemiopsis leidyi*, that glows in the dark. At first, I was fascinated by its simple shape with the 8 ribs, which I saw the opportunity to convert to ceramic shape. But also its quiet weightlessness, and that it is an invasive species (like us) that displaces other species, gave substance and artistic nerve to my work.”









“In my search for the anatomy of the jellyfish, I could not help but encounter the German biologist and philosopher Ernst Haeckel’s overwhelmingly detailed species-determining hand drawings from the mid-18th century. Art and science in rare, beautiful union. I have dived into some of these oldest records of jellyfish and aquatic organisms, seductively mounted on posters that glorify and beautify the symmetry and harmony of nature in “The Art Form of Nature” (1899). The time has come again to focus on the diverse beauty and transience of species.”







Bente Skjøttgaard Lamps at the Jason Jacques Gallery 2020 FOG Booth



Jason Jacques Gallery 2020 TEFAF Maastricht Booth



“I call myself ceramist. In Danish, it covers working with clay. In the United States, one would probably say Ceramic Artist.

I work systematically and always on the premises of the ceramic material, but often balance on the border of the possible, and the studies develop into free interpretations and expressive amorphous nature abstractions, with lots of glaze.”

BENTE SKJØTTGAARD CV

1961 Born in Frederiksberg, Denmark

Education

1982-86 Kolding Design School, Kolding Denmark

1985 Exchange student at Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem

Employments and other activities

2014 Jury member at the Biennale Internationale de Vallauris 2014, France

2012- Co-manager of Copenhagen Ceramics, Smallegade 46 Frederiksberg, Copenhagen

2011 Co-founder of the exhibition platform Copenhagen Ceramics

“10 Days” International ceramics workshop at the GICBiennale 2011, Icheon, South Korea

Co-initiator of “SuperFormLab”, the new ceramics department at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Design

2009-11 “Traces of the Jutland cattle”, Art along the ancient road Hærvejen in Jutland, a project by the Danish Arts Foundation.

2009 ISCAEE Symposium - the International Symposium of Ceramics Education and Exchange, South Korea

2006-08 Member of the board, International Ceramic Research Center - Guldagergaard, Skælskør, DK

2006 Co-founder of the exhibition group “Lux Lab”

2005- Lecturer at the department of ceramics at the Danish Design School, Copenhagen

2002-03 Crafts Collection 6 and 7, Danish Crafts, Ambiente, Frankfurt Germany

2001-02 Jury member at Charlottenborg Spring Exhibition

2001 Co-founder of the exhibition group “New Danish Ceramics”

1999-00 Joint owner of Udstillingssted for Ny Keramik (The Exhibition Room for New Ceramics), Kompagnistræde 25, Copenhagen

1994-05 Visiting teacher, Kolding Design School and The Danish Design School, Copenhagen

1986-90 Artist at the Royal Danish Porcelain Factories Bing & Grøndahl and Royal Copenhagen

Solo shows, a selection

2014 Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud, Bruxelles

”Cumulonimbus” Copenhagen Ceramics, Frederiksberg DK

2013 ”Aire de Repos”, Galerie Maria Lund, Paris

2012 Bodil Manz and Bente Skjøttgaard: “Cuts and interventions”, Copenhagen Ceramics, Frederiksberg DK

2011 ”Fokus on Traces” Vejen Art Museum, Vejen DK

Puls-contemporary ceramics, Bruxelles
2010 "Dans le nuages", Galerie Maria Lund, Paris
"Cumulus", Ann Linnemann studio gallery, Copenhagen
2008 Blås & Knåda, Stockholm
"Elements in white", Galerie Maria Lund, Paris
Køppe gallery, Copenhagen
2007 Puls-contemporary ceramics, Bruxelles
2006 Galerie Maria Lund - La Galerie Danoise, Paris
2005 "Interglacial period", Galleri Nørby, Copenhagen
2004 Galerie Maria Lund - La Galerie Danoise, Paris
2003 "Glazed items with ramifications", Holstebro Kunstmuseum, Holstebro DK
Puls contemporary ceramics, Bruxelles
"Bente Skjøttgaard 2001-2003", Grimmerhus - Museum of International Ceramic Art, Middelfart DK
2001 Puls-contemporary ceramics, Bruxelles
2000 "Glasurstykker" (Glazed items), Galleri Nørby, Copenhagen
1998 "i blomst - i vase" (in bloom – in vase) with Anne Tophøj, Udstillingssted for Ny Keramik, Copenhagen
1997 "Håndvask" (washbasin), Udstillingssted for Ny Keramik, Copenhagen
1990 Solo at the Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Shop, Amagertorv, Copenhagen

Group shows, a selection

2014 Design Miami/ Basel, Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud, Basel, Switzerland
"The Ceramic Object", Galleri Format Oslo
Art14, Galerie Maria Lund, London
2013 Design Miami, Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud, Miami Beach, USA
Design Miami/Basel, Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud, Basel, Switzerland
"Copenhagen Ceramics invites" Galerie Maria Lund, Paris
"We would be delighted to see", Art Center Silkeborg Bad, Silkeborg, DK
2012 "Glasurglæder" (Glaze Joys) Vejen Art Museum, Vejen DK
UNDERVÆRKER – masterpiece from Danish private collections, KUNSTEN- Museum of Modern Art Aalborg, DK
"Fra Sans til Samling". New donation from Erik Veistrup, Grimmerhus- Museum of International Ceramic Art, Middelfart DK
PERTURBATIONS Musée Fabre, Montpellier, France
MINDCRAFT 12, Danish Crafts, Ventura Lambrate, Milano, Italy
2011 16ème biennale internationale de céramique de Châteauroux, France
Biennalen for Kunsthåndværk og Design 2011, Koldinghus, Kolding DK
The 6th International Competition, GICBiennale 2011, Icheon, South Korea

KIAF 2011, Korea International Art Fair, Galerie Maria Lund, Seoul, South Korea
MINDCRAFT 11, Danish Crafts, Ventura Lambrate, Milano. Italy
“Living with Ceramics”, Puls-contemporary ceramics at Ampersand House, Bruxelles
2010 Biennale internationale de Vallauris, Musée Magnelli, Vallauris, France
KIAF 2010, Galerie Maria Lund, Seoul, South Korea
”Across”, Carlsberg Ny Tap, Copenhagen
2009 Collect, Køppe Gallery, Saatchi Gallery, London
The Invitational World Contemporary Ceramics Exhibition: ”Adventures of the fire”, South Korea
KIAF 2009, Galerie Maria Lund, South Korea
15éme Biennale internationale de céramique, Châteauroux, France
”Room 141” Gallery Contemporary Ceramics, Victoria & Albert Museum, London
2008 ”Statistics><Ceramics”, New Danish Ceramics, Röhsska Museet, Göteborg SE and Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg GE
”Lux-Lab”, Gimsinghoved, Struer DK
KIAF 2008, Galerie Maria Lund, South Korea
2007 Collect, Galleri Nørby, V&A London
”Biennalen 2007”, Trapholt Art Museum, Kolding DK
”Everything is flux”, Drud & Køppe gallery, Copenhagen
2006 ”Bjerger i dansk kunst” (Mountains in Danish Art), Herning Museum of Contemporary Art, Herning DK
”European Ceramic Context 2006”, Bornholm Art Museum, Gudhjem DK
2005 SOFA, Chicago, Galleri Nørby, Chicago USA
”The Carsten Løvsbjerg Collection”, Horsens Art Museum, Horsens DK
2004 SOFA, Chicago, Galleri Nørby, Chicago USA
”Corner 2004”, Charlottenborg, Copenhagen
”Biennalen 2004”, Trapholt Art Museum, Kolding and Museum of Modern Art Aalborg, DK
2003 SOFA Chicago, Galleri Nørby, Chicago USA
”New Danish Ceramics” The Danish Museum of Art & Design, Copenhagen
2002 ”From the Kilns of Denmark: Contemporary Danish Ceramics”, The Museum of Art and Design, New York, Fitchburg,
San Diego, Sacramento, Racine, Paris and Berlin
”Mellem rum”, (In between Spaces) Udstillingssted for Ny Keramik at Galleri Nørby, Copenhagen
2000 ”Keramik uden fortilfælde” (Ceramics of no Precedent), Udstillingssted for Ny Keramik Copenhagen
”DANSK FORM - design vom Nachbarn”, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, GE
1999 ”Keramik aus Dänemark”, Galleri Handwerk, Munich, GE
1996 ”DUPLIKA - Danish applied art 1996”, The Danish Architecture Centre, Gl. Dok, Copenhagen
1995 ”En Badeværelshistorie” (A Bathroom story), Galleri Nørby, Copenhagen
”Dansk Design proces - produkt”, The Danish Architecture Centre, Gl. Dok, Copenhagen
1994 ”Rooms and Rituals of Everyday Life”, Den Frie, Copenhagen
”The Ceramic Jug”, Marienlyst Castle, Helsingør DK

"The Danish Ceramics Triennial 1", Trapholt Art Museum, Kolding DK
1993 The Arts and Crafts Prize of 1879, The Danish Museum of Art & Design, Copenhagen
1991 "Never Compromise on Quality", Spøttrup Castle Museum, Skive DK
Charlottenborg Spring Exhibition, Copenhagen
Charlottenborg Autumn Exhibition, Copenhagen

Art in public space

2011 "Traces of the Jutland cattle", Art along the ancient road Hærvejen in Jutland, a project by the Danish Arts Foundation

Awards and grants

The Danish Art Foundation 3-year grant
Annie & Otto Johs. Detlefs' Keramikpris
The Danish Art Foundation
Danmarks Nationalbanks Jubilæumsfond af 1968
Ole Haslunds Kunstnerfond
Danish Crafts
Designfonden
Det Reiersenske Fond
Grosserer L.F. Foghts Fond
Kunsthåndværkerprisen af 1879
National Workshops for Arts and Crafts, Ministry of Culture, Denmark
Ole Haslunds Artist Foundation
Danish Crafts
Det Reiersenske Fond
Grosserer L.F. Foghts Fond
The Arts and Crafts Price of 1879
The Exhibition Award of Charlottenborg
The Design Foundation

Collections, a selection

Victoria & Albert Museum, London

Musée National de Céramique de Sévres, France
Fond National d'Art Contemporain, France
Designmuseum Danmark, Copenhagen
Holstebro Kunstmuseum, Holstebro DK
Grimmerhus, Museum of International Ceramic Art, Middelfart DK
Vejen Art Museum, Vejen DK
Trapholt Art Museum, Kolding DK
The Danish Art Foundation
Copenhagen Culturel Foundation
Kunstforeningen af 14. August, Copenhagen
Annie & Otto Johs. Detlefs Collection
Erik Veistrup Collection, Museum of International Ceramic Art, DK
Carsten Løvbjerg Collectiona