

ILDIKÓ KÁROLYI

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Artist Statement

I make ceramic objects. My personal aim is to create lovable, usable, high-quality pieces that provide a wide range of visual and tactile experiences, objects that can decorate both 21st century homes and public spaces.

My creative process consists of constant, focused, yet in some aspects instinctive experimentation with materials, shapes and surfaces. My goal is to capture beauty. This process is an intuitive search for harmony, a quest for delight. Objects born in my hands are imprints of the inner paths of this explorer-researcher-observer mind.

I've been making *Whispering Globes* – tangible universes – for about four years now. With my globes I mean to recall the first use of clay by humans. They ask to be picked up by two hands, they are ergonomic in their roundness and also celebrate the uniquely variable tactile decorative capabilities of our medium.

It was a conscious decision to pick this particular *form*, I liked the idea of transforming the concept of the Japanese *ensō* to 3D. Spheres also carry ancient and universal symbolism referencing completeness, unity, protection, femininity and a number of mysterious aspects too.

My research on *textures* is a more instinctive, spontaneous process. I'm inspired by nature and its organic shapes, and I'm looking to create surfaces or entire globes resembling these inspirations. Raku is a great tool to create unpredictably unique, harmonious, natural objects based on this primal, ancient form.

Whispering Globes have a real sense of heritage and yet they are something completely new.



Press

2016 *ÚKTV* • <https://youtu.be/PhlCcE4eBqQ?t=8m14s>
2015 *Stilblog* • <http://stilblog.hu/2015/01/05/suttogo-gombok>
2014 *Hellodesign.hu* • <http://www.hellodesign.hu/project-blog/whispering-spheres-by-keramiart>

Qualifications

2011–2012 *Folk Playhouse Animator* • Hungarian Heritage House, Budapest, Hungary
2004–2006 *Potter* • High School of Folk Arts and Crafts, Budapest, Hungary
2001–2003 *Specialist in Foreign Affairs MA* • University of Economic Sciences, Budapest
1995–1999 *Conservation of Cultural Heritage BA* • University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Professional Experience

2018 *Masterpieces of Hungarian Craft* group exhibition • Hungexpo, Budapest, Hungary
2018 *Biennal de Ceràmica d'Esplugues* group exhibition • Barcelona, Spain
2018 *Fundación Valparaíso* artist residency • Mojácar, Almería, Spain
2018 *ENBARRO* group exhibition • La Rambla, Córdoba, Spain
2017 *Raku Magic* mastercourse • International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemét, Hungary
2016 *MAPAMA* group exhibition • Madrid, Spain
2016 *Ceramica Multiplex* group exhibition • Varaždin, Croatia
2016 *Colors and Moods* group exhibition • Újpest Gallery, Budapest, Hungary
2016 *Whispering Globes* individual exhibition • Újpest Gallery, Budapest, Hungary
2016 Membership in the *National Society of Fine and Applied Arts*, Hungary
2015 *L'Artigiano in Fiera* exhibition and market • Rho-Fiera, Milan, Italy
2015 *1st Ceramic Symposium in Salento and Raku Workshop* invited artist • Tricase, Italy
2015 *WAMP Make Yourself at Home with Us* group exhibition • Museum of Applied Arts, Budapest, Hungary
2015, '16 *BALATON EXPRESS* group exhibition • mono art & design, Budapest • ARTplacc, Tihany, Hungary
2014 *Creative Arts Fair* exhibition and market • Museum of Applied Arts, Budapest, Hungary
2014 *WAMP design fair and exhibition* • Budapest, Hungary • Vienna, Austria
2014 One-month field trip • Branca Ceramiche, Italy
2013 Ceramic workshops in my studio • With invited artists
2011 Establishing my personal studio
2007 *Hungarian Crafts* group exhibition • Museum of Agriculture, Budapest, Hungary

Wild Clay Experiments (2015–16)

Abandoned Basalt Mine • Salgóbaranya, Hungary

Scorched Earth • Whispering Globes
wheel-thrown wild clay • bisque fired • Ø 10 cm



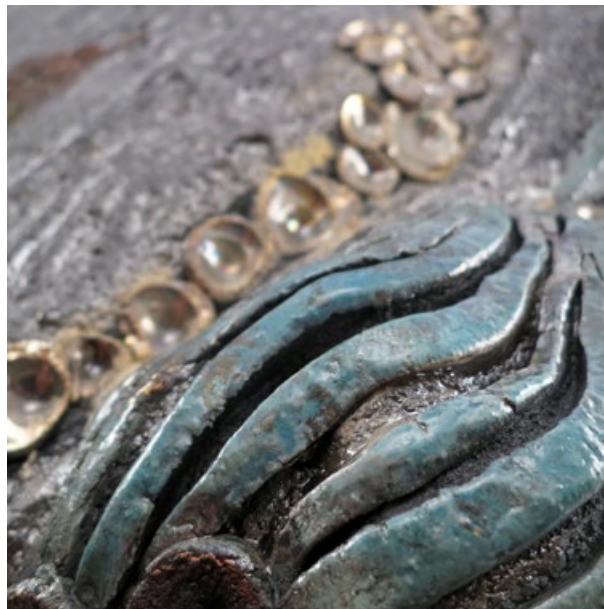
It takes courage to realize how much beauty lies in the simplest things. Reaching back to the roots where this beauty originates from is a real challenge in today's fast paced, consumer driven world. In my current works I mean to recall the first use of clay by humans. This unrefined, **local, wild clay** – practically **the soil itself**, a living material, containing various "impurities" – was found almost by accident; it produces an alluring, coarse, glowing red surface and develops characteristic, unique crackling patterns, which remind of surfaces shaped by the forces of nature for millions of years.



Four Elements (2016)

Earth • Fire • Air • Water • Wall mounted pieces (*details*)
hand-built, oxides, glazes • raku • 35 × 35 cm each

The Spirit of the Maker invokes all four elements – Earth, Fire, Air, Water – and the Raku technique to produce unpredictably unique ceramic objects while keeping their essential harmony with nature... and to create **singular, tangible universes**.



Black & White Minimalism (2016–17)

Opposites Attract • Whispering Globes
wheel-thrown • raku • Ø 8–12 cm



Canal Craze, Darker than Black (*far left*) • Whispering Globes
wheel-thrown • naked raku, raku • Ø 13 cm



Simple is Beautiful • Whispering Globe
wheel-thrown • raku • Ø 12 cm



Black Sponge • Whispering Globe
wheel-thrown, deformed • raku • Ø 12 cm



Reanimation • Whispering Globe
wheel-thrown • raku • Ø 12 cm

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Each Whispering Globe is a special gift wrap for delivering wishes. They preserve all the whispered thoughts and release them bit by bit to the loved ones. **Every piece is a distinct universe**, a harmonious, complete, unique gift.

Fault Lines • Copper Kiss • Desert Sandstorm • Enchanted Pomegranate • Night/Day Terminator on Ceres • Western Dragon, Eastern Dragon • The Big Blue • She/He
wheel-thrown, oxides, glazes, sulfates, nitrates • raku • Ø 10–15 cm

Whispering Globes (2014–17)

The Salento Series

Whispering Globes



Relic • Whispering Globe
wheel-thrown, glaze • raku • Ø 14 cm

The Salento Series was born during the *1st Ceramic Symposium in Salento and Raku Workshop* at Bottega Branca, Tricase, where – truly **fascinated by the beauty of the place, local landscapes and people** – I had the chance to create Whispering Globes. I intended to incorporate all the surrounding natural beauties of Salento in my globes.



Fractured But Whole • Whispering Globe
wheel-thrown, glaze • raku • Ø 13 cm



Dancing Sunlight • Whispering Globe
wheel-thrown, oxides, glaze • raku • Ø 12 cm



Castaway • Whispering Globe
wheel-thrown, glaze • raku • Ø 11 cm

Other Works (2014–17)

Eternal (top) • wheel-thrown • bisque • Ø 20 cm
Wall pieces (bottom) • hand-built, glazes • raku • 32 × 12 cm each

You & Me (middle) • wheel-thrown, glazes • high-fired • Ø 9 cm
Dark Flow (bottom) • wheel-thrown, deformed • raku • Ø 24 cm



Awakening Comet (top) • wheel-thrown, glazes • raku • Ø 25 cm

Under the Surface (bottom) • wheel-thrown, glazes, oxides, sulfates • raku, naked raku, saggar • Ø 13 cm

Yunomi couple (top) • wheel-thrown, glazes • raku • 100 ml

Cup Coral Bowl (middle) • hand-built, glazes • raku • Ø 34 cm

Experiments with Puli Hair (bottom) • wheel-thrown, puli hair • raku • Ø 13 cm