

## Hundreds of Oblongs and Discs Undulate Across Marianne Huotari's Ceramic Sculptures

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GRACE EBERT



"Ananasakäämä." Photo by Anna Autio. All images © Marianne Huotari, shared with permission

Dating back to the Vikings, [ryijy](#) is a distinctly Finnish textile tradition that produces thick, high-pile tapestries and rugs. The heavily patterned works, which have shifted from functional to decorative, are made by hand-knotting wool and layering the yarn into lush, textured motifs.

Drawing on her background in textile design, Finnish artist [Marianne Huotari](#) translates this technique into ceramics, creating densely delicate reliefs that evoke the depth and dimension of fiber. Huotari begins every work with a color palette and surface, whether in the form of a wall-based piece or a freestanding sculpture. She then rolls and pinches clay into oblongs and small discs imprinted by her fingertips for added texture, each pierced to create a small hole for a bit of metal thread. Once glazed and fired, the individual components are sewn into undulating topographies layered lush with color and rippling shapes. Huotari shares with Colossal:

The process is super slow but very meditative thanks to its repetitive nature. Throughout the process, I attempt to take control of the material by dismantling and reassembling the parts, which is not very common when talking about ceramic art. That provides me the freedom to make changes on the go. The technique provides countless possibilities... In the near future, I'll be focusing on developing the sculptural expression and searching for the limits of dimensions.

The Helsinki-based artist was recently named a finalist for this year's [Loewe Foundation Craft Prize](#), which is hosting an exhibition at Seoul Museum of Art through July 31. She also has pieces on view through August 19 at [HB381 Gallery](#) in New York and through the end of August at [Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Center](#) in Denmark, where she will be a resident this fall. Watch the video below and head to [Instagram](#) for a glimpse into Huotari's process, and browse available pieces in [her shop](#). (via [Journal du Design](#))



Left: "Moment in the Shade." Photo by Anna Autio. Right: "Eden's Euphoria." Photo by Anna Autio



“Mandarin Garden.” Photo by Jefunne Gimpel



Detail of “Mandarin Garden.” Photo by Jefunne Gimpel



"Shallows." Photo by Anna Autio



"Wild as Lupine." Photo by Hanna Kaketti



“Tipsy and Dazzled by Festives.” Photo by Anna Autio