

# HOSTLER BURROWS

## **Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl** **Danish, b. 1954**

Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl is a renowned ceramics artist based in Copenhagen, Denmark. He has worked with a myriad of spatial themes and ornaments that frequently reoccur in his formal vocabulary, and which emerge through a methodical, gradual and experimental serial process. Notably, the knot as a shape has been a leitmotif offering possibilities for various sinuous rhythmic cadences and abstract narratives. The hand built architectonic works appear as 'spatial drawings'—solid, twisting and turning through space. Kaldahl's interest also lies in the potential of the object to make a direct emotional impact on the viewer. The motif is always clear in its simplicity and easily decoded while remaining open to interpretations.

The fundamental existence of objects in space is brought into sharp focus in the work of Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl. Through his process he transforms everyday minimal phenomena into sculptural expressions utilizing a precise, formal fashioning of the material. With a keen eye for the monumental within the insignificant, his works emerge out of a process that creates conditions for an intuitive form. While Kaldahl works from an overall vision, he incorporates stumbling blocks into the actual construction of the works in order to relinquish control, allowing the form to evolve and thereby avoiding predictability. Akin to doodling, where consciousness is only partially present, he builds larger structures out of smaller bits of clay tubes which, at random, become a dancing sequence that moves up and down, almost reeling out into space. The use of strong, clear colors adds an insistent dynamism and energy to the works; this in tandem with the form's own statement and potential to initiate emotion, manifest in a clear and easily decipherable expression that remains open to many different interpretations.

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## **MARTIN BODILSEN KALDAHL**

Danish, b. 1954

### **EDUCATION**

1988 – 90 Royal College of Art, London. MA RCA Ceramics and Glass

### **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2021 Taste Contemporary, Geneva,
- 2018 Ann Linnemann Gallery, Copenhagen
- 2017 *Spatial Drawings*, Galerie NeC, Paris
- 2016 *Possible Gestures*, Gallery Format, Oslo
- 2014 *X-Scapes*, Copenhagen Ceramics  
*New Works*, Galerie NeC, Paris
- 2012 *Other Objects*, Copenhagen Ceramics Exhibition Space, Copenhagen
- 2011 Puls Contemporary Ceramics, Bruxelles  
*Stump – the Lopped Branch*, Ann Linnemann Studio Gallery, Copenhagen
- 2008 *The Digital Clay*, Danish Museum of Art and Design
- 2005 Puls Contemporary Ceramics, Bruxelles
- 2003 Gallery Nørby, Copenhagen  
Clara Scremini Gallery, Paris
- 2001 Puls Contemporary Ceramics, Bruxelles, 2002 Clara Scremini Gallery, Paris
- 1999 Puls Contemporary Ceramics, Bruxelles, 2000 Udstillingssted for Ny Keramik, Copenhagen
- 1997 Gallery Nørby, Copenhagen

### **SELECTED TWO ARTIST AND GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2021 *Bend, Bubble and Shine*, Hostler Burrows Gallery, New York and Los Angeles  
*Group show*, Maison Louis Carré, Paris. Arr. Taste Contemporary
- 2019 *Five Cubed*, Taste Contemporary, Geneva  
*100 Years of Danish Ceramics*, Søpéhieholm, DK  
Marsden Woo Gallery, London  
*Ceramic Momentum – Staging the Object*, CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art, DK
- 2018 MarsdenWoo Gallery, London
- 2017 *Danish Design at the House*, Sydney Opera House
- 2016 *Hot Danes*, Puls Contemporary Ceramics, Brussels  
*Copenhagen Ceramics Invites*, Galeria Salvatore Lanteri, Milan
- 2015 MarsdenWoo Gallery, London  
SOFA, Chicago  
*Random Growth*, Sarah Myerscough Gallery, London
- 2012 *European Union Council Building*, Bruxelles. During Danish Chairmanship of EU
- 2011 *Living with Ceramics*, Puls Gallery and Ampersand House, Bruxelles
- 2010 *Contemporary British Studio Ceramics - The Grainer Collection*, Mint Museum, Charlotte, North Carolina, US  
KOM. Cypres Gallery, Leuven, Belgium  
*Ceramics*, Art Museum of Skanderborg, DK
- 2009 *Danish Ceramics*, Mariagerfjord Kunstforening, DK  
*Mindcraft, Salone di Mobile, Milan*. Arr. Danish Crafts

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- 2007 *END. An International Ceramics Exhibition Project*. Danish Museum of Art and Design, Bomuldsfabriken Kunsthal, Norway  
Drud & Køppe Gallery, Copenhagen  
*Biennial for Crafts and Design*, Trapholt Art Museum, DK  
*Collect, V&A Museum*, London
- 2006 *SOFA*, Chicago  
*Musée Magnelli*. With Barbara Nanning, Vallauris. France  
*Collect, V&A - Museum*, London. Repr. by Gallery Nørby
- 2005 Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York
- 2004 Clara Scremini Gallery, Paris  
*SUPERDANISH*, arr. by Danish Crafts, Toronto  
*Biennial for Crafts and Design 2004*, Danish Museum of Art and Design, Copenhagen
- 2003 *Scandinavian Design beyond the Myth*. Travelling exh. to 12 museums in Europe  
*From the Kilns of Denmark*. Travelling exhibition. American Crafts Museum, N.Y. and 4 other museums in the US, La Maison du Danemark, Paris, and Nordic Embassies, Berlin, 2002 -04 Gallery Nørby, Copenhagen. With Marit Tingleff, N.
- 2002 *La Tradition de Demain - Innovation au Quotidien*. Designexhibition, La Maison du Danemark, Paris
- 2000 *Danish Porcelain 1775 -2000*, The Danish Museum of Decorative Arts, Copenhagen  
*Tableware of the Future*, Designproject for Royal Scandinavia A/S. Showroom in Copenhagen and Trapholt Museum, DK
- 1999 *Keramik aus Dänemark*, Munich, Germany  
1. *Nordic Ceramics Triennale* (touring exhibition), Stockholm; Gothenburg, SE. Kolding, DK 1998-99  
*National Arts Council exhibition*, Copenhagen
- 1997 *Sort Rum*, Copenhagen, Milan. Design exhibition with Hans Thyge Raunkjær  
2. *Danish Ceramics Triennale*, Trapholt Museum, DK  
*Danish Ceramics 1850 - 1997*, Sophienholm, Copenhagen
- 1996 Clara Scremini Gallery, Paris. With Karen Bennicke  
*Danish Art and Design*, St. Petersburg, Russia
- 1994 *Charlottenborg Efterårsudstilling*, Copenhagen  
*Inaugural exhibition*, Grimmerhus Ceramics Museum
- 1993 *Young Contemporaries* (Keramikkens Underskov), Copenhagen

## COLLECTIONS

- Victoria & Albert Museum, London  
Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris  
Danish Museum of Art and Design, Copenhagen  
National Museum, Oslo  
Röhsska Museet, Gothenburg, Sweden  
MIMA, Middlesborough Institute of Modern Art, UK  
Danish Arts Foundation, DK (1994, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2012)  
Trapholt Art Museum, DK  
CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art, DK  
Kunstforeningen af 14. august, DK (1998, 2009)  
Annie and Otto Joh. Detlefs Foundation, DK

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Diana and Marc Grainer Collection, Washington  
Private collections, Denmark and internationally

## AWARDS

- 2017 Annie and Otto Johs Detlefs Ceramics Prize
- 2011 Inga and Eyvind Kold-Christensen Fund. DK. Honorary Award
- 2005 Ole Haslunds Kunstnerfond, DK. Honorary Award
  - The Sotheby Award, Collect, London
  - The Danish National Bank Jubilee Fund, 2010, 2005, 2003, 2001, 1996, 1994
  - National Arts Council, DK. stipends: 2011, 2010, 2009, 2007, 2004
- 2001 Crafts Council Annual Award, DK (Kunsthåndværkerrådets Årspris)
- 1997 The Design Foundation, Ministry of Culture, DK
  - The National Arts Council, DK. 3-year-Grant
  - Danish Contemporary Art Foundation, 1996
- 1989 The Sir Eduardo Paolozzi Travelscholarship, RCA

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2021, *Bend, Bubble and Shine*, catalogue. Group show at Hostler Burrows Gallery, New York and Los Angeles
- 2020, *Danish Creatives*, Charlotte Jul & Nicoline Olsen (danishcreatives.com)
- 2019, *Ceramic Momentum: Staging the Object*, catalogue. Clay Museum of Ceramic Art, DK
- 2016 Lars Dybdahl: *Danish Design Now*, Strandberg Publishing, Copenhagen
- 2014 *Dansk Keramisk Bibliografi* (Danish Ceramist Bibliography)
- 2012 *La Revue de la Céramique et du Verre*, issue 187.
- 2011 Edmund de Waal: *The Pot Book*. Phaidon Press, London
- 2010 Glenn Adamson: *The Craft Reader*, Berg Publishers, London
  - Annie Carlano: *Contemporary British Studio Ceramics*, Yale Univ. Press
  - Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl: *The Digital Clay*. Danmarks Designskole
- 2009, *Kunststoff*, Sept. –Article: The Computer and The Clay (author)
- 2008 *Art & Perception* issue 73. Article on END-exhibition. Australia
  - FOKUS – Magazine. Published by Danish Crafts. Article
- 2007 *Kunststoff* ( Magazine of Danish Crafts and Design, Interview-article
  - END. Exhibition- catalogue. Danish Museum of Art and Design
- 2006 *Céramique du XX siècle*. Collection catalogue, Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Paris
- 2005 *Crafts Magazine* no.192, England
- 2003 Edmund de Waal: *20th Century Ceramics*, Thames & Hudson, London
  - Art and Perception*, Australia (article)
- 2003, *KeramikMagazin* no. 4, Germany (article)
  - Marit Tingleff - Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl: *Ceramics 2003*. Catalogue, (with essay by Jorunn Veiteberg. In connection with joint show at Gallery Nørby)
- 2002 Kraks Blå Bog, Denmark
  - From the Kilns of Denmark*. Catalogue, Rhodos Ed. Copenhagen, New York
  - Ceramic Review*, issue 196, (profile)

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- 2001 Mark del Vecchio: *Postmodern Ceramics*. Thames & Hudson, London  
Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl - *Ceramics Works 1990 – 2001*. With essay by Alison Britton: Poetry and Grammar - The Works of Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl)  
*Ceramic Review*, issue 190, (magazine interview)
- 2001 *La Revue de la Céramique et du Verre*, issue 117
- 2000 *Royal Copenhagen Porcelain 1775 - 2000*. Nyt Nordisk Forlag/ Busck
- 1998 *I. Nordic Ceramics Triennale*, (catalogue)
- 1997 *Sort Rum*. Catalogue  
*Dansk Keramisk Bibliografi* (Danish Ceramist Bibliography)
- 1996 *Clara Scremini Gallery*. Catalogue. With essay on Karen Bennicke and Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl by Lars Dybdahl  
*Dansk Kunsthåndværk*, issue 1, Danish Crafts Magazine, (interview)
- 1993 *Keramikkens Underskov*, (catalogue)

## TEACHING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Associate Professor at School of Design, Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art, 2009 – 2020. Now associated emeritus.
- External Examiner at The Royal College of Art, London, 2015 – 2018
- External Examiner, KhiO, Oslo 2015, 2019, 2020 and HDK, Gothenburg, 2019, 2020 Co-initiator of *Copenhagen Ceramics. Exhibition Space*, 2011. Exhibition curator 2014 – Co-curator of *Ceramic Momentum - Staging the Object. International exhibition at CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art*, Denmark, 2019.
- Co-initiator of SuperFormLab at School of Design, Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art, 2011 Studio in Roskilde, DK, 2008 -
- Member of Jury for *The Vallauris Biennale*, France, 2006
- Visiting designer/ research fellow, Danmarks Designskole, 2005 -08
- Head of Dept. for Ceramics and Glass, Danmarks Designskole, Copenhagen, 2004- 05 Member of *Kunstnersamfundet*, DK, 2003 - present
- Curator for *Danish Crafts*, Information Centre for Danish Crafts, 2002,03,04,05
- Member of selecting jury for the *Jerwood Applied Arts Prize 2001*, UK, 2001
- Curator of exhibition: *British Ceramics.2000.dk*. Grimmerhus Ceramics Museum, DK.
- Editorial member of *Danish Crafts Magazine* ('Dansk Kunsthåndværk'), 1997 - 02
- Studio in Copenhagen, 1997 - 2008
- Part time lecturer at Danmarks Designskole, Copenhagen, 1997 - 2004
- Board member at Grimmerhus Ceramics Museum, DK, 1995 - 98
- Tutor at the Jutland Academy of Fine Arts, Aarhus, DK, 1993 - 97
- Studio in Aarhus, DK, 1990 - 97
- Teacher of ceramics at Vestbirk Folk High School, DK, 1990 - 96
- Studio in Odder, DK, 1981 - 88
- Works with ceramists in England, France and Denmark, 1977 - 81
- Aarhus Academy of Art, DK, 1974 – 77