

HOSTLER BURROWS

IRENE NORDLI

b. 1967, Norway

Irene Nordli forms clay into convulsive vessels, complex assemblages freighted with wrinkling folds and amorphous ribbons of matter that cause them to sag, stretch, and falter. There is something akin to an oracle's divination at work in her practice, offering up the entrails of our cultural detritus for inspection and interpretation. Exquisitely produced, her intricate sculptures turn the body inside out, inviting viewers to contemplate the unformed and reviled: intestinal coils and slabs of clay modeled as if they were composed of the interior membranes of the body.

Nordli's porcelain vases and closed ceramic forms are mottled with an array of copper-rich flambé glazes; their pristine exterior surfaces, stained with shades of oxblood, reveal hollow cavities and viscera. Red sang-de-boeuf glazes pool against bone-white porcelain. The flecks of crimson appear to flay the objects, producing a hybrid image somewhere between ceremonial vase and modern body horror. As such, they offer a grisly foil to the minimalist simplicity of mid-century design.

Nordli holds a degree from the National College of Art and Design in Bergen and has also been a professor at KHIO in Oslo, Norway. Her work has been exhibited internationally with solo and group presentations at venues such as Officine Saffi (Italy), Clay Museum of Ceramic Art (Denmark), Bernardaud Foundation (France), Gustavsbergs Konsthall (Sweden), Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum (China), and the Grand Palais (France). She has also been exhibited widely throughout Norway at locations such as the Royal Castle in Oslo, Kunsthall Grenland, The National Museum in Oslo, KODE in Bergen, and Format Oslo. Nordli has also completed a number of large scale commissions at various locations in Norway.

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EDUCATION

- 1996 National College of Art and Design, Bergen, Norway
- 1993 Exchange Program, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 1991 Akershus University College, Department of Design and Product Design, Oslo, Norway
- 1990 The Aegean Center for the Arts, Paros, Greece

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Arkanum [Arcanum]*, Kunsthall Grenland, Porsgrunn, Norway
- 2023 *Into the Woods*, Tjørnedala Konsthall, Österlän, Sweden
- 2022 *The Pillars*, Format Oslo, Oslo, Norway
- 2019 *Keramiske Oppløsninger [Ceramic Solutions]*, Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo, Norway
Vaser og Akvareller [Vases and Watercolors], RAM Galleri, Oslo, Norway
- 2018 *Behold the Sea, Stormen*, Bodø, Norway
- 2017 *The Porcelain Room*, NNKS Nordnorsk Kunstnersenter, Svolvær, Norway
- 2016 *The Porcelain Room*, Galleri Format, Oslo, Norway
- 2012 *I Find It Harder and Harder to Live Up to My Blue China*, Galleri Format, Oslo, Norway
- 2011 *Bergen Timeline*, Galleri Format, Bergen, Norway
Perspective China: Clay (e)scapes, Porsgrunn Kunstforening, Porsgrunn, Norway
Beijing Art Fair, Beijing, China
- 2010 *Ting forteller [Things Speak]*, Lillehammer Art Museum, Lillehammer, Norway
- 2007–2010 *You Can't Hold Back Spring [Touring exhibition]*, The National Museum, Oslo, Norway
- 2009 *Porselensfeber [Porcelain Fever]*, Eskilstuna Konstmuseum, Eskilstuna, Sweden
- 2008 *Porselensfeber [Porcelain Fever]*, Sandnes Kunstforening, Sandnes, Norway
- 2007 *Retrospektiv [Retrospective]*, Porsgrunn Kunstforening, Porsgrunn, Norway
You Can't Hold Back Spring, Porsgrunn Kunstforening, Porsgrunn, Norway
- 2005 *Ikke Gråt om det er Vinter og det Snør [Don't Cry if it's Winter and Snowing]*,
Møre og Romsdal Kunstsenter, Molde, Norway
- 2002 *Deerman og SuperVenus*, Kunstnersenteret i Oppland, Lillehammer, Norway
Kenguland [Kangaroo Country], Hå Gamle Prestegård, Nærbø, Norway
Bergen Kunstforening, Bergen, Norway
Østfold Art Center, Fredrikstad, Norway
- 2001 Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo, Norway
Galleri UKS, Oslo, Norway

1999 Fylkesgalleriet i Sogn og Fjordane, Førde, Norway

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Alive and Unfolding*, Le Delta, Namur, Belgium
At the King's Table: From Tableware to Contemporary Ceramics, Dronning Sonja KunstStall, Oslo, Norway
Energy Transfer: Parallel Narratives in Norwegian Ceramics 1895–2025, Center for Ceramic Art, Ringeby, Norway
Kraftoverføring: Sidefortellinger i Norsk Keramikk fra 1895–2025 (Power Transfer: Side Stories in Norwegian Ceramics from 1895–2025), Senter for Keramisk Kunst, Ringeby, Norway
- 2024 *Irene Nordli and Jenny Mäki Invitert 7: Brann [Invite 7: Fire]*, KRAFT Center for Contemporary Crafts, Bergen, Norway
- 2023 *1400°C*, Bernardeaud Foundation, Limoges, France
- 2022 *Afterglow*, Kunsthall Grenland, Porsgrunn, Norway; CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art Danmark, Middelfart, Denmark; Gustavsbergs Porslinsmuseum, Gustavsberg, Sweden
Irene Nordli and Mingshu Li: Why Do Europeans Put Plates on their Wall?, Format, Oslo, Norway
- 2021 *Made in Ringeby*, Trevet – Ringeby Prestegård, Ringeby, Norway
Mindre Enn [Less Than], Hå Gamle Prestegård, Nærbø, Norway
Vestlandsutstillingen [The Western Norway Exhibition], Ålesund, Øystese, Bergen, and Stavanger, Norway
- 2020–2022 *Nomad Art Fair*, Galleri Format, St. Moritz, Switzerland
- 2019 *Figurer och Figuriner [Figures and Figurines]*, Rian Designmuseum/Falkenberg hembygdsmuseum, Falkenberg, Sweden
Chart Art Fair, Köppe Contemporary Objects, Copenhagen, Denmark
Nomad Art Fair, Galleri Format, Venice, Italy
- 2018 *Hjemmets Skatter [The Treasures of the Home]*, Blaaifarveværket, Modum, Norway
The Only Way Is Up, Varberg Konsthall, Varberg, Sweden
- 2017 *Present*, Bomuldsfabriken, Arendal, Norway
Rotfylling [Root Canal], Annual exhibition of Norwegian craft 2017, Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum, Trondheim, Norway
- 2015 *Årsutstillingen [The Annual Exhibition]*, Oslo, Norway
Beyond G(l)aze, KODE, Bergen, Norway
Den Eneste Veien er Frem [The Only Way Is Forward], Stavanger Kunsthall, Stavanger, Norway
Re: Reanimate, Repair, Meld & Mend, Bluecoat Display Centre, Liverpool, U.K.
Transformator [Transformer], Bomuldsfabriken Kunsthall, Arendal, Norway; Hydrogenfabrikken Kunsthall, Fredrikstad, Norway; Format Oslo, Oslo, Norway
Zwinger und Ich [Zwinger and Me], Bomuldsfabriken, Arendal, Norway
SOFA Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2014 *Beyond G(l)aze*, Jinji Lake Art Museum, Suzhou, China
Tendenser [Trends], Galleri F-15, Moss, Norway
- 2013 *Revelations: Revealing Thoughts*, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Third European Triennale for Ceramics and Glass, Mons, Belgium

- 2012 *Superwhite*, Galerie Collection, Paris, France
- 2011 *Bergen Timeline*, Galleri Format, Bergen, Norway
Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
Graft, Galleri Format, Oslo, Norway
Fortællespor/New Nordic Narratives, CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art Danmark, Middelfart, Denmark
Paradigm [Touring exhibition], Greenland, Hungary, France, Belgium, Ireland, Slovakia, South Korea, and Iceland
Porcelain Fever, Beijing Art Fair, Beijing, China
Thing Tang Trash, The West Norway Museum of Decorative Art, Bergen, Norway
- 2010 *Kvitt Vilt*, Rauland Kunstforening, Rauland, Norway
Le Cru et le Cuit/Det Rå og Det Kokte [*The Raw and the Cooked*], Galerie Favardin & de Verneuil, Paris, France
- 2009 *Good Night: Surrealism in Norwegian Art*, Stenersen Museum, Oslo, Norway
- 2008 *Figurasjoner* [*Figurations*], Norsk Billedhoggerforening, Oslo, Norway
Skulpturbiennalen [*Sculpture Biennial*], Norsk Billedhoggerforening, Vigeland Museum, Oslo, Norway
- 2007 *Illuminations*, Gustavsberg Konsthall, Gustavsberg, Sweden
Present, Bomuldsfabrikken, Arendal, Norway
- 2005 *Kyss Frosken* [*Kiss the Frog*], The National Museum, Oslo, Norway
Norske Bilder [*Norwegian Images*], Rådhusgalleriet, Oslo, Norway
Contemporary Craft Biennale, Röda Sten, Gothenburg, Sweden
- 2004–2009 *Trolls: Figures in Norwegian Contemporary Ceramics*, Poland, China, South Korea, Ireland, U.S., Singapore, Germany
- 2003 *Collector's Item/Privat Eie* [*Private Property*], Galleri F15, Jeløya, Norway
Draumkvede [*Dream Quince*], Cultuurcentrum Scharpoord, Knokke-Heist, Belgium
Galerie de Compagnie, Dordrecht, The Netherlands
- 2002 *Flair*, Kristiansand Kunstforening, Kristiansand, Norway
Keramik aus Norwegen [*Ceramics from Norway*], Galerie Handwerk, München, Germany
Stille før Stormen [*The Calm Before the Storm*], Jeløya, Norway
The Sixth Element, Latvian Center for Contemporary Art, Riga, Latvia
White Light District, Finsk-Norsk Kulturinstitutt, Oslo, Norway
Galleri Nørby, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2001 *DesignMensch*, Museum für Kunst und Gerwebe, Hamburg, Germany
- 2000 *Flyvende Tallerkener og Andre Fat* [*Flying Saucers and Other Dishes*], Bomuldsfabriken, Arendal, Norway
Only Human, Crafts Council, London, UK
Tendenser [*Trends*], Galleri F-15, Jeløya, Norway
- 1999 *Ceramic Millennium Symposium*, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Farbrikkmix [*Colorful Mix*], Telemark Kunstnersenter, Porsgrunn, Norway
Kulturrådets Innkjøp 1997–99 [*Arts Council Purchases 1997–99*], Oslo Kunstforening, Oslo, Norway
Ornament Is a Crime, Akershus Kunstnersenter, Lillestrøm, Norway
Present, Bomuldsfabriken, Arendal, Norway
The Misfits, Trønderlag Kunstnersenter, Trondheim, Norway
- 1998 *Great Things from Somewhere*, Galleri Ram, Oslo, Norway
Mitt Er Ditt [*Mine Is Yours*], Rogaland Kunstnersenter, Stavanger, Norway
- 1997 *Kulturrådets Innkjøp 1995–96* [*Arts Council Purchases 1995–96*], Oslo Kunstforening, Oslo,

Norway

Proselen på Nye Eventyr, Hordaland Art Center, Bergen, Norway
Statens 109 Kunstutstilling [State 109 Art Exhibition], Høstutstillingen, Kunstnernes Hus, Oslo, Norway

Tallinn Applied Art Triennial, Tallinn, Estonia

Galleri Hvita Havet, Stockholm, Sweden

- 1996 *Exit*, Vestlandske Kunstindustrimuseum, Bergen, Norway
Great Things from Somewhere, Bomuldsfabrikken, Arendal, Norway
Great Things from Somewhere, Galleri Lista Fyr, Lista, Norway

COMMISSIONS

- 2021 *Birisvanen [Biri Swans]*, Biri Omsorgssenter, Gjøvik, Norway
Når Verden Er Ny [When the World Is New], Rolvsøy Barnehage, Fredrikstad, Norway
- 2020 *Vårda: Glacing a Stone and Building a Beacon*, Tvedestrand High School, Tvedestrand, Norway
- 2018 *Transform*, Harstad Nye Skole, Harstad, Norway
- 2017 *Hellemyrsdyret*, Hellemyr flerbrukshall, Kristiansand, Norway
- 2015 *That Was the River, This Is the Sea*, Bodø High School, Bodø, Norway
- 2014 *Eggevokteren [The Egg Watcher]*, Mesterfjellet School, Lavrik, Norway
Jorid, Haukerød Elementary School, Sandefjord, Norway
Søgne City Hall, Søgne, Norway
- 2011 *39 Nye Liv [39 New Lives]*, Follo Folkehøgskole, Vestby, Norway
- 2010 *Kengukamp [Kangaroo Camp]*, Telemark District Hospital, Skien, Norway
Månelyst, Trondheim, Norway
Månelyst #2, Halden Prison, Norway
Reasons to Hang Around, Lillestrøm, Norway
- 2009 *Bjørnstjerne [Bear Star]*, Korsgård Public School, Askim, Norway
- 2006 *Don't Be a Stranger*, Asker Kulturhus, Akser, Norway
Englevakt [Angel Guard], Statistisk Sentralbyrå, Kongsvinger, Norway
- 2005 *Figurines*, Arendal Kultur og Rådhus, Arendal, Norway
- 2004 *Boxing Kangaroos*, Gasco, Kopervik, Norway
- 2003 *Play With My Heart*, Mariner of the Seas, Royal Caribbean
The Misfits, Runni Middle School, Årnes, Norway

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2017 Kunsthandverk Prize, The BKH Relief Fund for Visual Artists
- 2013 The Wallonia-Brussels Federation Prize at the European Triennial of Ceramics and Glass
- 2010 Statens Garantiinntekt (GI)
- 2005–2009 Five-Year Scholarship, Norsk Cultural Council
- 2002 Sleipnir Travel Grant, NIFCA Nordic Institute for Contemporary Art
- 2001 One-Year Scholarship, Kunstnernes Relief Fund
- 2000 One-Year Scholarship, Norges Artist Council
Oslo City Cultural Scholarship
- 1997–1998 Norwegian Council of Culture, Exhibition Scholarships
The National Scholarship for Young Artists

1997 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Travel and Study Scholarship
Scholarship, Vederlagsfondet