



Bloc

Claudi Casanovas

Not on display

Title/Description: Bloc

Artist/Maker: Claudi Casanovas (Artist)

Born: 2001

Object Type: Sculpture

Materials: Ceramic, Mixed clays

Technique: Carving, Handbuilding

Measurements: h. 140mm

Accession Number: 50730

Historic Period: 21st century

Production Place: Spain

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Credit Line: Accepted under the Cultural Gifts Scheme by HM Government from Leslie Birks Hay and allocated to SCVA, 2016

This ceramic form appears as a chunk of rock that has been cleaved, carved and eroded by time. An earthy palette of ridges, strata and fissures meditatively mirror fragments of landscape and geology. Claudi Casanovas says his work is similar to, ‘...things we find, like stones on the road, like wood on the beach or pieces of machinery in a scrap yard’. [1] This work is from Casanovas’s *Twenty Blocks* series. He describes each form in the series as a ‘silence’ and is fascinated by the innate presence and energy of found objects. [2]

Casanovas’s manipulation of clay is daring and experimental. Clay is frozen then shattered into shapes, from which he builds composite forms. He sculpts the clay further using a chisel and surfaces are further manipulated by wood-firing. His approach to material has similarities to the work of Peter Voukos. Casanovas’s practice also encompasses works on a monumental scale. Tony Birks collected this work and described Casanovas as his favourite ceramic artist – ‘fearless and endlessly inventive’. [3]

Sim Panaser, August 2020

[1] Lewenstein, Eileen, ‘Claudi Casanovas Individual Potter: Ingenious Engineer’, *Ceramic Review*, 132 (November/December 1991), 29-31 (p. 31).

[2] Exhibition: *Twenty Blocks*, (2001) <http://www.galeriebesson.co.uk/cas2exhib.html> [accessed 20 August 2020].

[3] Tony Birks, ‘Goodbye Besson’, *Ceramics: Art and Perception*, 87 (2012), pp. 48-51, (p. 49).

Further Reading

[accessed 10 August 2020]

Birks, Tony, Claudi Casanovas, (Yeovil: Marston House, 2001)

Lewenstein, Eileen, ‘Claudi Casanovas Individual Potter: Ingenious Engineer’, *Ceramic Review*, 132 (November/December 1991), 29-31

Roberts, Geraint, ‘Filling the Silence: Towards an Understanding of Claudi Casanovas’ Blocks’, *Interpreting Ceramics*, 5, (2004)

<http://interpretingceramics.com/issue005/fillingthesilence.htm> [accessed 20 August 2020]

Vàzquez, Eva, Claudi Casanovas Ceramics, 1975-2015, (Lladó: Ursula Llibres, 2016)
