



Skirt

Bruce Gernand

On display

Title/Description: Skirt

Artist/Maker: Bruce Gernand (Artist)

Born: 1997 - 1997

Object Type: Sculpture

Accession Number: 50867

Historic Period: 20th century

Production Place: England

Skirt, 1997, is a high-fired stoneware work, made at the European Ceramics Work Centre during a residency by the artist in 1997. The residency was part of a wider project that concluded with the Sainsbury Centre exhibition *Slip: Artists in the Netherlands and Britain working with Ceramic* (2002). This exhibition subsequently toured to the Franz Hals Museum.

Gernand makes abstract sculptures in a wide range of materials. He has stated: *'If sculpture is concerned with animate form, it is expressed through a tension between its stillness and gesture.'* [1] This succinctly sums up *Skirt*, where the artist expresses the form of a garment, usually malleable made in woven fabric. However, Gernand renders this 'garment' in ceramic. This starts off pliable and malleable but once fired turns to stone.

He continues: *'For me, the practice of sculpture is fuelled by paradoxical conditions. One is the sense in which sculpture is an attempt to embody conditions of the animate, gesture for example, into a state which is fundamentally still and mute. Another is the fascination with the process of working with materials which ultimately find completion in an object, the drive to keep things fluid while knowing that there must be an end, a death of action which is the object. And then there is the paradox of presenting you with digital/virtual images (on this website) of objects whose main claim is to simply exist materially.'* [2]

Bruce Gernand (b.1949), an American-born sculptor and draughtsman, studied at Pennsylvania State University, 1966-8; graduated in philosophy at San Francisco State College, 1968-70; attended City and Guilds of London Art School, 1971-2; Central School of Art and Design, 1972-4; and Royal College of Art, 1975-6. He was a Senior Lecturer and headed the Sculpture Area on the B.A. Fine Art Course (1997-2007), and subsequently became a Senior Research Fellow there.

Among awards he was received are those from the Arts Council, 1977; Eastern Arts Association, 1987; and he was Henry Moore Fellow in Sculpture at Central St Martins College, 1992-4, working in its foundry. Gernand showed in Britain from the early 1980s; had an exhibition in Coopers &

Lybrand's Atrium Gallery, 1994; was included in the Osaka Triennale of Sculpture, 1995, in Japan; in 1996-7 had work in the Sculpture at Goodwood display; and a solo show at Karen Hamilton, 2000

Calvin Winner, February 2023

[1] <https://www.brucegernand.com/biography.php>

[2] Ibid.
