

# LEFEBVRE & FILS

CONTEMPORARY ART CERAMICS

presents

## THÉO OUAKI *VANISHING POINT*

October 19 - Novembre 18, 2023

Opening Thursday October 19, 2023 from 5 to 8pm



Galerie Lefebvre & Fils  
24, rue du bac - 75007 Paris  
[www.lefebvreelfils.fr](http://www.lefebvreelfils.fr)

***Sweet octopus, 2023***  
Glazed stoneware  
53 x 38 x 38 cm  
20.8 x 14.9 x 14.9 in.

# THÉO OUAKI

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The Lefebvre et Fils gallery is pleased to present for the first time the work of the French and Marseille-based artist Théo Ouaki.

«: (...) If we look more closely at Theo Ouaki's ceramics, a large number of references to art history appear: Christian scenes, still lifes, skinned... as well as motifs from primitive cultures. The artist confronts himself as much with the clay burned thousands of years ago and with academicism as with the traces on the walls... to better drown them, in turn, in the images which invade everyday life of his contemporaries. From Benin and his meeting with Cyprien Tokoudagba a week before his death during a residency at Dominique Zinkpé's workshop, Théo Ouaki brings back the intimate conviction that art can be born from raw materials. From there, he allowed himself to insert touches of mysticism into his works. He talks about the absence of rites of passage into adulthood, an absence filled by some thanks to the thrill generated by graffiti. And we add, the importance of the void left by the disappearance of the rites which allowed men returning from the war to leave violence outside the community. We must find ways to live together, these works seem to cry. Théo Ouaki's ceramics seem to be in search of something like an atheist mysticism... or the codes of a tomorrow where suburbs and bobos, Africans and European city dwellers, Marseillais and natives will one day share a common aesthetic. These ceramics, both bestiary and representations of a new civilization, constitute both a syncretism and the culmination of its practice. A dish of bouillabaisse bearing the image of Jul sits alongside a San Pedro cactus or the anthropomorphic portrait of a sky. Does the artist know that, in Native American traditions, we speak not only of mother earth but also of the grandfather sky? By kneading the earth, rolling the clay in an ancestral gesture, Theo Ouaki goes to meet what it carries within it: it is only by revealing one's intimacy that one can touch the universal .”

Charlotte Cosson



**Mother, 2023**  
Glazed stoneware  
50 x 45 x 45 cm  
19.6 x 17.7 x 17.7 in.

# THÉO OUAKI

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Theo Ouaki (born 1989) lives and works in Marseille, France.

He studied at the Beaux-Arts in Marseille and developed his career during residencies in Benin, Italy and Mexico. His work has been exhibited in Brussels, Paris, Venice, Mexico, Dallas and Marseille. He works his ceramics with the idea of a universal culture with references that can touch everyone. He creates his own enamels like an alchemist to create special effects with a very expressive finish.

### EDUCATION

**2014**

DNSEP, École des Beaux-Arts de Marseille

### SOLOSHOWS

**2022**

Les nerfs à vifs, Centre culturel Hangar Belle De Mai, Marseille

**2018**

Tomber d'un bloc, Galerie Bernard Dulon X GAM, Paris

### RESIDENCIES

**2023**

Residence Ceramica SURO, Guadalajara, Mexique

**2022**

Residence Laboratorio di ceramiche artigianale, Salina, Italie

**2012**

Atelier Dominique Zinkpè LIEU UNIK Cotonou, Benin

### PUBLICATIONS

Antonym magazine n°1 (interview et illustrations)

Le quotidien de l'art 25 mars 2018

Publication de dessin dans « Bande DE » AVATARS. Editions du toner. Bruxelles

Publication de dessin dans « Bande DE » gros durs. Editions du toner. Bruxelles

### GROUPSHOSW

**2023**

BOTCH N1, Commune de saint Gilles, Ateliers J et J, Bruxelles

Nemesis, Couvent Levat, Marseille

Exposition numero 4 - Atelier J et J, Bruxelles

POP, Ceramica Suro, Forty Five Ten, Dallas, USA

MMMATERIAL art fair, Ceramica Suro, Mexico city

Window liker, Galerie Nosco, Bruxelles

**2022**

Curiosity, Le cabinet d'Ulysse, Marseille

Emergences, Galerie Supramare, Marseille

**2021**

Fadas, Galerie Solarium, Marseille

Revolté.e.s, Buropolis, Marseille

**2019**

Le Hall, Marseille

Artist series, Venice art project - galerie Lemow,

Venise, Italie

**2018**

L'architecture d'une fraction, Galerie Lemow &

Galerie Gam, Paris

Oligopolistic, exposition collective galerie Gam, Paris

Our beautiful launderettes, Traffic galleries-le magasin, Marseille

NI vus ni connus, exposition collective galerie Gam, Paris

Art'up Lille, Galerie Nicole Gogat

Mulhouse Art fair, Galerie Nicole Gogat

Luxembourg Art fair, Galerie Nicole Gogat

**2013**

Monstrez-le, Collectif Nebulae, Exposition collective, Montreal, Canada

Image icone idole, Collectif Nebulae, Exposition collective, Montreal, Canada

Reflection, Collectif Nebulae, Exposition collective, Montreal, Canada

**2012**

Résonnances, LIEU UNIK, Exposition collective

Cotonou, Benin

## Practical Informations



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Galerie Lefebvre & Fils  
24, rue du Bac  
75007 Paris

From Tuesday to Saturday  
11am - 1pm and 2pm - 7pm  
Monday by appointment

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