

LEFEBVRE & FILS

CONTEMPORARY ART CERAMICS

presents

ZUZANA SVATIK *BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE*

January 12 - February 11, 2023

Opening Thursday January 12th, 2023 from 5 to 8pm



Galerie Lefebvre & Fils
24, rue du bac - 75007 Paris
www.lefebvreelfils.fr

Untitled, 2023
Handbuilt glazed clay and gold lustre
75,5 x 44 x 20 cm
29.7 x 17.3 x 7.8 in.
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Lefebvre & Fils gallery is pleased to present the first solo-show of the Slovakian artist Zuzana Svatik following her residency in Versailles during winter 2022.

«It is something like a mirror and a comment at the same time, a mirror that shows the normalization and banalization and the existential dimension of violence, pulling the mask away so that it appears as what it really is: not only appalling, but also petty, ridiculous and deeply deforming. Old french paintings with a focus on the 17th and 18th century, such as the works of Jean-Baptiste Oudry or Alexandre-François Desportes, as well as pornography or sexual deviations are being weaved into new narratives that refer to a direct relationship between art, power and sexuality as well as to art in general as a powerful tool throughout history for either the consolidation of power or the exact opposite, its social criticism.»

Zuzana SVATIK, January 2023

Zuzana Svatik (b. 1993) is a visual artist who works primarily with the media of ceramics, drawing and painting. In her work, she critically re-evaluates the function and potential of applied art in the contemporary society – in addition to its aesthetic and utilitarian function, the value of a critical and engaged position is added. She creates an opportunity for a dialogue with the outside world through the medium of ceramics; issues such as gender equality, stereotypes concerning masculinity and femininity, the theme of adolescence or the search for one's own identity often appears. Her work reacts to the social and gender prejudices in the countries of Eastern Europe and depicts the influence of this environment and way of thinking on her art. It reflects her impressions of society, people, personal identity, popular culture, social constructs, naming of the acceptable and unacceptable, the right and wrong. She is a Phd student at AFAD, Bratislava.

ZUZANA SVATIK

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EDUCATION

2021- present

Academy of Fine Arts and Design,
Bratislava, Slovakia
Phd Degree studies

2019

Graduate internship, Monika Grabuschingg
's studio
Berlin, Germany

2017

Student exchange program, Jerusalem,
Israel
Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design

2016 - 2018

Academy of Fine Arts and Design,
Bratislava, Slovakia
Master's Degree, Studio of ceramics

2015

Student exchange program, Wroclaw,
Poland
The Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and
Design

2012 - 2016

Academy of Fine Arts and Design,
Bratislava, Slovakia
Bachelor's Degree, Studio of Ceramics

2008 - 2012

School of Applied Arts of Jozef Vydra,
Bratislava, Slovakia
Department of Ceramics

AWARDS

2021

Newcomer of the year, Slovak National
Design Award, Slovakia

2018

Main price of Designweek, Bratislava,
Slovakia

2016

Collection of the year, Designweek,
Bratislava, Slovakia

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2022

Decompose me, decompose you, Vunu Gallery,
Košice, Slovakia
Křehký Mikulov, Mikulov, Czech Republic
Expedition 10, Jerusalem, Israel
Salon Révélations, Paris, France
Shop early, relax later, Blu Gallery, Modra,
Slovakia
The mediumm is the message, Dot Gallery,
Bratislava, Slovakia
Melting colours of Bratislava, Budapest,
Hungary

2021

Svatik X Sekac, online exhibition
La forme du vide, La peau de l'ours, Brussels,
Belgium
Zwischen Körpern, Kleine Humboldt Galerie,
Berlin, Germany
Vessels Berlin, Wishbone studio, Berlin,
Germany
Don't heat - Do it, DOT Gallery, Bratislava,
Slovakia
Design without borders, Budapest, Hungary
Miart, Milan, Italy
Art Market Budapest, Budapest, Hungary

2020

More is more II, Vilnius, Lithuania
Svatik x Sekac, Satelit, Bratislava, Slovakia
More is more II, Rona Gallery, Lednické Rovne,
Slovakia
Arthouse Designblok, Prague, Czech Republic
1000 Vases, Paris, France
Designweek, Aponyi Palace, Bratislava,
Slovakia

2019

Křehký Mikulov, Mikulov, Czech Republic
Designweek, Zoya Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia
Something else, Berlin, Germany
Výstava Y, Umelka Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia

2018

X Gallery, Talents 2014 - 2018, Bratislava,
Slovakia
Z kruhu von“, Slovak National Gallery,
Schaumarov mlyn, Pezinok, Slovakia
Designweek, Zoya Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia
Designblok, Prague, Czech Republic
Diploma Selection finalist, Designblok, Prague,
Czech Republic



Portrait of Louis Lefebvre
© Paul Jacob Bashour

About Louis Lefebvre

Born in Paris.

Louis Lefebvre left to study in Cambridge, England.

On his return, he began working at Christie's in the European Ceramics department, followed by the Asian Ceramics department.

During the 1980s, Louis Lefebvre started working with his father in his role as a respected expert in Ancient Ceramics. He specialized in historical and large decorative pieces, and later Modern and Contemporary ceramics.

In 2009, Louis Lefebvre chose to re-focus the family gallery, created in 1880. He put in place the gallery's first exhibition of new ceramics. Since, the gallery has explored contemporary ceramics and accompanied artists such as Roger Herman, Eric Croes and Cammie Staros in their interrogation of the medium with a leitmotiv and passion to show the real permanence and renewal of Ceramics as a medium in contemporary art.

Presentation of the Residency Project Interview with Louis Lefebvre

“The residency grew from a desire precious to my family; that is to know and promote a know-how passed down many generations, enabling the creation of complex and unique art works.”

In 2015, you opened the “The Residency” in Versailles for artists specialized in ceramics. What is involved in this initiative?

En 2006, I had the chance to acquire a house in Versailles classified for its historical heritage, once the music room of the princess Elisabeth, sister of Louis XVI.

“The Residency” grew from a desire precious to my family; that is to know and promote a know-how passed down many generations, enabling the creation of complex and unique art works.”

The residency is kitted out with two kilns to make production as easy as possible for artists.

The duration of the residencies vary between 6 weeks and 3 months. Part of the package is that your gallery is the stage for a solo show at the end of the residency. Are all the pieces are exhibited being shown exclusive?

On average, the residency lasts two months for each invited artist. Each exhibited work is unique and unseen. There are no multiple editions.

Each residency is an opportunity to share, experiment and live a human adventure. The resulting solo show is the fruit of work that comes from a strong link between the artist and the gallery.

Not all the artists in “The Residency” are artists of the gallery. How do you choose which artists benefit from the residency?

It would be impossible to establish an admissions process to participate in “The Residency”.

I am particularly susceptible to the production of a number of artists from the West Coast of America. I find their outlook, when it comes to techniques and the work produced, of a very high level. There is a really unique style that comes from Los Angeles.

THE RESIDENCY



I trust my eye and my aesthetic sensitivity. I owe many artistic encounters to Roger Herman, a professor friend at UCLA and ceramist artist, and to Danny First, an Israeli philanthropist friend.

“The Residency” has existed for two years, could you tell us your first impressions of how it’s gone so far, and your goals for the future?

I had given myself two years to make the project viable. I’ve achieved this, as well as doubling the turnover for the gallery.

The solo shows have been a great success, enabling me to confirm my role as a gallery owner by placing the artists’ pieces. I also advise and accompany them in introductions to great collectors and museums. Such as Anabel Juarez, a Mexican artist, or Eric Croes, a Belgian artist, who have works in the collections of the Museum of Sèvres.

In addition, the gallery offers the residency artists a high quality of visibility through the participation in innovative international fairs, for example in AAAH Paris Internationale.

This project, dedicated to the red arts, which started with the artist Ulrika Strömbäck continues today with many more artists. “The Residency” has a booked-up program until 2023, which demonstrates that the gallery has opened a new chapter and that the story continues.

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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