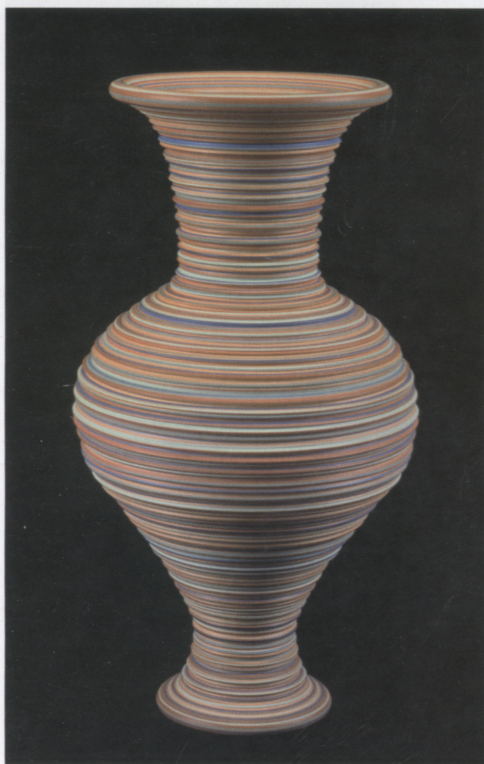


Canada's Tenth National Biennial



"Playa," 66 centimeters (26 inches) in length, by Steven Heinemann, Richmond Hill, Ontario. "I am in the work; the work is in me," Heinemann commented.



"Blur," 44 centimeters (17 inches) in height, earthenware, by Gregory J. Payce, Calgary, Alberta. This piece is "an autobiographical and conceptual act," Payce states, "which breaks down the distinctions between: form and concept, figure and ground, form and decoration, motion and rest, history and the contemporary, human and vessel form, and ultimately, myself and my work."



"Autel particulier," 100 centimeters (39 inches) in length, earthenware, glass and wood, by Laurent Craste, Montréal, Québec. "The objects found in 'Autel particulier' are the symbols of my identity, of my essence, both spiritual and physical. But they are a frozen portrait of myself. To free myself and exist, I must profane them."

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the "Biennale Nationale de Céramique" in Trois-Rivières, Québec, Canada, organizers replaced the usual juried competition with a curated exhibition. "Since its beginnings, the biennial has brought together selected works by a jury composed of professionals from the artistic milieu," explained director Christiane Simoneau in the accompanying catalog. "For the 2002 edition, the committee opted for an exhibition with neither a competition nor a jury. Four professional ceramists were chosen as guest curators, mainly for their involvement and the important role they play in the development of ceramics in Canada."

Each of the four curators selected artists from a specific region of Canada: Yves Louis-Seize invited six artists from Québec; Paul Mathieu chose eight from British Columbia and Alberta; Alexandra McCurdy chose four from the Maritimes; and Ann Roberts chose eight from Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The 29 selected artists were asked to interpret the theme of "Autoportrait" (self-portrait), by sharing "an important part of the history of ceramics through their own story," Simoneau continued. "Different looks, paths and approaches are seen in the works presented by the participating ceramists. The [biennial] is a witness to the diversity and the richness of ceramics in Canada."

After its opening in Trois-Rivières, the exhibition traveled to the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo, Ontario, where it can be seen through December 24.