

LA GUILDE 1906

1356, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Montréal (Québec) H3G 1J1



LAURENT CRASTE
Casket II, 2017
Photo : Richard-Max Tremblay

LAURENT CRASTE | LA CHUTE

February 23 to April 29, 2018

La Chute, presented until April 29, 2018, is showcasing the most recent works created by the artist **Laurent Craste**. The exhibition aims to highlight this artist's latest creations. Besides the *Casket* series that we are discovering for the first time in Montréal, the visitors will also be able to admire artwork from the *Détournement* and *Sérvices* series. This exhibition marks the artist's first collaboration with La Guilde, as well as his first solo in Montréal in the last three years. Recipient of the Jean-Marie Gauvreau Prize in 2016, Craste is well known for his ceramic vases on which brutal interventions distort the objects from their primary functions, utilitarian and ornamental. His esthetic draws on art history, the history of religion and that of France, early and modern, to attain a more universal subject: the human condition.

As Craste explains: "[...] I am inspired by the original porcelain models of the 18th and 19th centuries found in the indexes of the great European manufacturers and

I use these models, submitting them to a form of deconstruction, violently altering their formal structures through acts of vandalism perpetrated with workers' tools, through stagings evoking corpses, martyrs or even suicides.”

► **LAURENT CRASTE**

Laurent Craste is a multidisciplinary artist, internationally renowned for his powerful and spectacular ceramic works that challenge and deconstruct the medium with which he works. Above and beyond the scope of his technique, the artist tackles universal issues such as the struggle of the classes, the environment, social precarity and mental health. Following a training program at the Centre de céramique Bonsecours, he obtained a Master's in Visual and Media Arts from UQAM in 2007. He has presented his work in Canada, the United States, and England, whether in solo or collective exhibitions. His work has been integrated into important collections, such as that of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Claridge Collection, the Ville de Montréal, Loto-Québec, the Cirque du Soleil and that of the Art Gallery of Burlington. Many articles pertaining to his highly subversive work have been published, including in the prestigious magazine Ceramic Arts and Perception.

He has obtained several grants and prizes rewarding his research, such as the Winifred Shantz Award (2002), given to an emerging artist and the Jean-Marie Gauvreau Prize (2016), the highest distinction in fine crafts in Québec. He has also chaired on multiple panels for the attribution of prestigious grants and awards in Visual Arts in Québec and Canada. He has been teaching ceramics since 1997 at the Centre de céramique Bonsecours. He lives and works in Montréal.

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