



## State of Ceramics

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***“Both the natural world and the human body constitute what I would call ‘thinking matter’. Earth, fire, water, air are the first elements of material making and benchmark the flux of order and disorder prevalent in humans and in everyday life.”***

Martina Margetts, *The Matter in Hand in Material Perceptions* (Oslo, Norwegian Crafts, 2018) p. 138

***“To understand the languages that emanate from materials or the atmospheres connected to them one especially needs to consider what happens after the work of the artist is done, once materials are submitted to the forces of time, gravity and the elements.”***

Petra Lange-Berndt, *Introduction//How to Be Complicit with Materials*  
*Materiality-Documents of Contemporary Art* (London/Cambridge MA, Whitechapel Gallery/MIT Press, 2015)  
p.17

***“Leftovers suggest fractured rather than continuous time. They are cut off from both the past and a future. This cutting adrift is more violent than we might first imagine...If memories are stirred by some objects they are quickly cancelled by being dislodged from the circuits they normally inhabit...to insist on the ‘scatter’ is to insist again on the sensual-encounter with the world at-hand. The ‘scatter’ includes the spaces between things, the air surrounding things, as at least as material, at least as bodily, at least as ‘left over’ as the things on a table.”***

Briony Fer, *The Scatter: Sculpture as Leftover in Part Object Part Sculpture* (Columbus Ohio: Wexner Center for the Arts, 2005) p.231-2

### **Questions to Consider:**

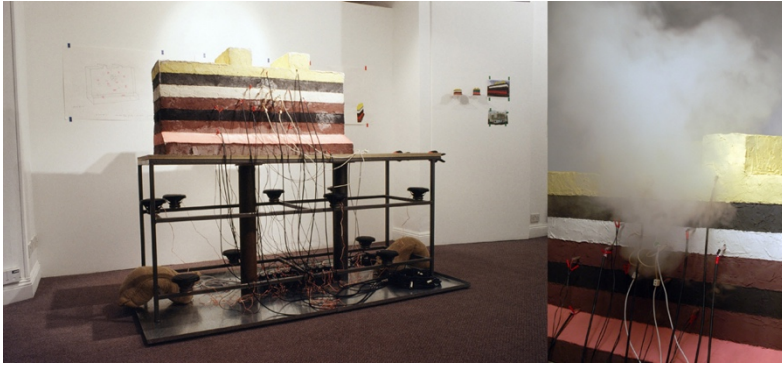
How does ceramics operate through and across time?

How can we understand ceramics as a form of material performance?

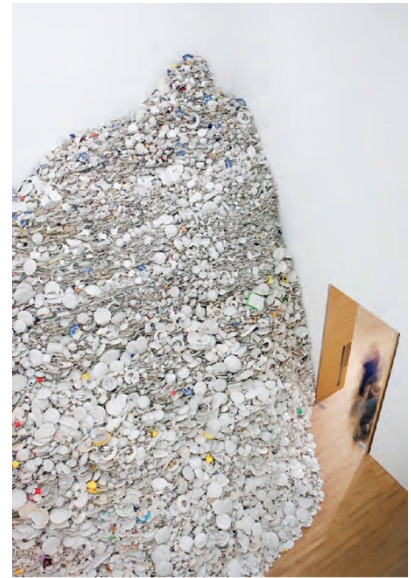
If the ephemeral, changeable nature of raw clay connects with human existence and this moment in time, then how does it translate into the future, beyond the object?

How do museums encompass expanded forms of ceramic practice?

How is such practice supported by museums and how does it pose challenges to their structure and collecting policies?



Keith Harrison



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