

ADVERTISEMENT

PART III

A COFFEE WITH ...

Bouke de Vries



The Utrecht-born artist studied at the Design Academy Eindhoven and Central St Martins, London. After working in fashion, he changed to study ceramics conservation and restoration. Bouke is exhibiting at Pallant House Gallery in Chichester,

which is sponsored by coffee experts De'Longhi. Here, he talks about his inspirations in art and life

Q&A

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

We all carry around a mental compendium of what inspires us - paintings, nature, memories, films, people. I'm inspired by the broken and discarded ceramic objects I find. They suggest situations, connections, compositions, which I then translate into sculptures.

WHERE CAN WE SEE YOUR WORK?

My work is at the award-winning Pallant House Gallery as part of Contemporary Eye: Crossovers exhibition (until 6 March 2011), a fascinating group show exploring the revival of craft techniques in contemporary art. It is also on show at the Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art and All Visual Arts in King's Cross, London.

WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT PROJECTS?

I'm working on pieces for several art fairs and group shows in London, Basel and New York, and on a wall piece for the new Roland Mouret shop/showroom in London.

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

Reconstruction meets deconstruction.



WHO OR WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST INFLUENCE?

My experience as a ceramics conservator has given me my voice as an artist. And the wonderfully eclectic exhibitions put on by Axel Vervoordt at the Palazzo Fortuny in Venice gave me the need and the drive to express my ideas - his mental compendium of inspirations is encyclopedic.

WHAT NEW TRENDS ARE YOU SEEING IN MODERN ART TODAY?

I think art is moving to a re-evaluation of traditional skills, craftsmanship and beauty.

For more information, visit pallant.org.uk. For more on De'Longhi, the gallery's headline sponsor for 2011, visit seriousaboutcoffee.com

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