

Tim Copsey  
Matthew Cronshaw  
Fernando Garcés  
Nina Gerada  
Karine Hilaire  
Clara Holt x Unurgent Argilla  
Zuleika Melliush  
Bisila Noha  
Michael Rice  
Unurgent Argilla  
Lucia Zamberletti

Grounded



A curated collection by Thrown  
for Collect at Somerset House (3rd - 5th March 23)

*Grounded* brings together eleven distinctive artists using clay to explore  
material connections, landscape and heritage

Image left:  
Wild kaolinitic clay from Valence  
Photograph by Unurgent Argilla

## Fernando Garcés

'I had contact with ceramics from a very young age. I discovered the pleasure of working with different clays and materials, surprised by its transformation as it passed through the kiln, the many creative possibilities. Ceramics helped me to "understand" the world of art, enjoy the pieces I found in museums, their history...'

'My workshop is dedicated to making unique ceramic pieces using the potter's wheel as the main tool, located in Talavera de la Reina, a world-renowned ceramic production center with centuries of tradition.'

'Opposite materials coexist in my work, from white porcelain to rough clay, enhancing even more, if possible, the qualities of each one.'

Fernando Garcés studied ceramics at the Official School of Ceramics in Madrid. Throughout the last thirty years, his work has evolved as a result of experience, study and constant relationships with artists and potters from different countries. In 1991 he joined the "Talavera" School of Art as a professor of Ceramics, of which he was director from 2014-2017.

Fernando's work can be seen in different museums, institutions and national and international collections including Museum of the City of Madrid, Ceramic Museum of Deruta, Italy, Museum of Fine Arts of Kaoshiung, Taiwan, and FLICAM, International Contemporary Ceramic Art Museum, Fuping, China, among others.







About the series *White Star*:

Wheel-thrown porcelain vessels, with straight shapes, and sometimes asymmetrical, broken and textured lips, which bring tradition closer to our days, evoking the most classic and elegant European porcelains of past centuries with a renewed classicism.

The pieces transmit delicacy and strength at the same time, maintaining the freshness with which they came out of the potter's wheel. Finger marks can be seen on them, which make each piece unique and break the monotony of the surface.

They rest on small porcelain legs, also golden, which create interesting contrasts between the irregular and textured edge of the vessel, and the precise and sharp legs on which it stands.

Fernando Garcés



*White Star 1*

Wheel-thrown and glazed porcelain with gold lustre

H 24 cm, ø 9 cm



*White Star 3*

Wheel-thrown and glazed porcelain with gold lustre

H 28 cm, ø 11.5 cm



*White Star 2*

Wheel-thrown and glazed porcelain with gold lustre

H 24.5 cm, ø 12.5 cm



About the series *Southern Skies*:

A pair of semicircular pieces, thrown in white stoneware, which contrast between fullness and emptiness, resounding and lightness, between the blue of the southern skies and the warm glow of the sun, which with simple profiles dances freely on the surface where it rests, imposing its presence to connect us to the earth.

The exterior glaze, created by simple ash melted during firing, offers us characteristic and unmistakable surfaces, which evoke the effects caused by ancient oriental kilns.

Clear and concrete work, where the essence of tradition, nature and forms coexist.

Fernando Garcés



*Southern Sky 1*

Wheel-thrown stoneware with ash glaze and gold lustre

ø 31 cm



*Southern Sky 2*

Wheel-thrown stoneware with ash glaze

ø 29 cm





About the series *Hidden Light*:

Resounding pieces, with simple profiles, to which we can peek into, attracted by the sparkles of gold, moving freely on the surface on which they rest.

The gold luster of the interior is perceived as the glow of lava coming out of a volcano, or the flash of lightning in the sky, and contrasts with the exterior finish, in which the melted black glaze slides over the nude paste of the color of the earth with the force of nature.

In them you can see the way in which they have been built, the marks of the potter's hands, the natural flow of the glazes.

Fernando Garcés



*Hidden Light 1*

Wheel-thrown stoneware, black glaze and gold lustre

ø 25 cm



*Hidden Light 2*

Wheel-thrown stoneware, black glaze and gold lustre

ø 26 cm



*Hidden Light 3*

Wheel-thrown stoneware, ash glaze and gold lustre

ø 26 cm



Photograph by Will Hearle for OmVed Gardens

The clay, sometimes naked, evokes the colours of the earth, and show the potter's fingerprints as the only decoration. The ash are transformed into glazes, creating rivers, fields, snow, water... The traditional techniques and the surrounding materials make each work unique, they bring us closer to nature, with its own personality.

The gold inside the pieces is perceived as the glow of lava coming out of a volcano, or the radiance of a lightning in the sky, while at the same time, it roots us with the production of Hispano-Moresque lusterware, or the golden European porcelains. The clean profiles, reduced to their essence and stripped of any distraction, focus on sobriety, tranquillity, rhythm, proportion, and movement, to transmit in a timeless way the essence of an ancient activity. Simple pieces that reflect the personality of the potter, his references, his tastes, his training, and his experience.



*Early Snow*

Wheel-thrown stoneware and white glaze

ø 25 cm



*Midsummer*

Wheel-thrown stoneware and white glaze

ø 23.5 cm





*Volcano*

Wheel-thrown stoneware, ash glaze and gold lustre

ø 25.5 cm



*Autumn 1*

Wheel-thrown stoneware and white glaze

ø 24.5 cm

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THROWN      gallery@throwncontemporary.co.uk      +44(0)7443 522689  
throwncontemporary.co.uk