

# HOSTLER BURROWS

## **TORBJØRN KVASBØ**

b. 1953, Norway

Torbjørn Kvasbø is one of the few Norwegian artists to have a significant international career spanning several decades. In his work, he is constantly pushing against his boundaries and the limits of the material and processes in order to develop his art. According to Kvasbø, “My work process in the clay material offers a lot of resistance, and I get to know more of the forces over which I have no control; the incalculable elements in my inner being. Emotional discharges become embodiment of feelings, and the works become actual experiences themselves.”

His current work is large-scale, often monumental. The *Stack* series involves extruded cylindrical tubes shaped and modeled on top of each other. Based on the archetypal vessel form and what it might contain in our history, it is also a body: a three-dimensional torso with gestures and states of mind. His early works are more classical, household objects in the Western studio tradition, inspired by Asian—particularly Japanese—ceramics.

From 1996 to 2000, Kvasbø was a professor and head of the ceramics department at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and from 2000 to 2008, he was a professor and head of the ceramic and glass department at Konstfack in Stockholm, Sweden. Kvasbø is the president of the International Academy of Ceramics, where he has been a Council Member since 2005. He has been involved with numerous solo and group exhibitions, residencies, juries, workshops and lectures internationally. His work is represented in many museums and collections around the world. He lives and works in Venabygd, Norway.

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## TORBJØRN KVASBØ

b. 1953, Norway

## EDUCATION

1978 Bergen School of Applied Arts (Bergen Academy of Art and Design), Bergen, Norway

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 *Bundles of Energy*, CAFA Art Museum, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China

2020 Taoxichuan Museum, Jingdezhen, China

2019 GICB2019, South Korea

2018 *The Byre*, Ringebu Parsonage (Fjøset, Ringebu Prestegard)

2017 *The Byre*, Ringebu Parsonage (Fjøset, Ringebu Prestegard)  
Kunsthall Grenland, Porsgrunn, Norway

2013 Lillehammer Art Museum, Lillehammer Norway

Drammen Art Museum, Drammen Norway

2010 Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo, Norway

2009 Trøndelag Centre for Contemporary Art, Trondheim, Norway  
Gallery Zink, Lillehammer, Norway

2005 Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, Oslo, Norway

2004 West Norway Museum of Decorative Arts, Bergen, Norway  
Kunstbanken, Hamar, Norway

2003 Bomuldsfabriken Art Hall, Arendal, Norway

2001 MIC Museum of International Ceramics, Faenza, Italy

Galerie DM Sarver, Paris, France

Gallery Inger Molin, Stockholm, Sweden

2000 Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo, Norway

1998 Gallery Björnen, Stockholm, Sweden

1997 Gallery Nørby, Copenhagen, Denmark

1995 Main Street Gallery, Napa, CA

1994 Leedy-Voukos Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
The Works Art Festival, Edmonton, Canada

1993 Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo, Norway

Hordaland Art Centre, Bergen, Norway

Gallery Nørby, Copenhagen, Denmark

- 1992 Hopkins Hall Gallery, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 1991 The Works Art Festival, Edmonton, Canada
- 1990 *Blås och Knåda*, Stockholm, Sweden
- National Museum of Decorative Arts, Trondheim, Norway
- 1987 Hordaland Art Centre, Bergen, Norway
- 1986 Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo, Norway
- 1985 National Museum of Decorative Arts, Trondheim, Norway

## **NATIONAL JURIED COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION**

1977–2000, 2012 The Annual Exhibition of Norwegian Crafts, Norway

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2019 Gallery Format, Nomad Venice, Venice, Italy
- Museum Angewandte Kunst, “House of Norway,” Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- SKMU Kristiansand
- Officine Saffi, Morfologia delle Meraviglie, Italy
- Porselensmuseet Porsgrunn, Norway
- KODE Bergen, Bergen, Norway
- 2018 Sevres Ceramic Museum, Sevres, France
- About Clay*, Exhibition of European Ceramic Art, Fiskars, Finland
- 2017 *4th Documentary Exhibition of Fine Arts*, Hubei Museum of Art, Hubei, China
- Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale (GICB2017), South Korea
- 2016 *Geometry of Chaos: Carlo Zauli, Torbjørn Kvasbø*, Officine Saffi, Milan, Italy
- The Mode—International Ceramics Art Invitational*, Liling Ceramics Valley Museum, Liling, China
- Hangzhou International Contemporary Ceramic Art Biennale, Hangzhou, China
- Inspired*, The Scandinavian Center/TaoXicuang Museum, Jingdezhen, China
- Modern Masters*, International Trade Fair, Munich, Germany
- 2015 International Wood-Firing Festival, Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts, Shanghai, China
- Beyond G(l)aze*, KODE2, Bergen, Norway
- Transformer*, Galleri Format, Oslo, Norway
- Transformer*, Hydrogenfabrikken, Fredrikstad, Norway
- 2014 SOFA Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Transformer*, Bomuldsfabriken Kunsthall, Arendal, Norway
- European Ceramic Context, Bornholm, Denmark
- Attention: Craft*, Liljevalchs, Stockholm, Sweden
- Beyond G(l)aze*, Jinji Lake Art Museum, Suzhou, China
- 2013 *Revelations*, Grand Palais, Paris, France
- 2013 *Collect*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK

- 2012 *Collect*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK  
*Less Colour*, Rogaland Art Centre, Stavanger, Norway
- 2011 *Collect*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 2010 *Le Cru et le Cuit*, Galerie Favardin & De Verneuil, Paris, France  
*Clay Energy Gulgong*, Masters Exhibition, Cudgegong Gallery, Gulgong, Australia  
*Collect*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK  
*Intonation*, Deidesheim, Germany  
 Taiwan Ceramics Biennale, Yingge Ceramics Museum, Yingge, New Taipei City, Taiwan
- 2009 British Ceramic Biennial, Airspace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, UK  
 Cheongju International Craft Biennale, Cheongju, South Korea  
*Intonation*, Deidesheim, Germany  
*Tendenser 2009*, Gallery F15, Moss, Norway
- 2007 *Terres Extremes*, Maison de la Ceramique Contemporaine, Giroussens, France  
 Museu del Càntir d'Argentona, Barcelona, Spain  
 Keramik-Museum, Westerwald, Germany
- 2005 *Typical Norwegian?*, Vigeland-Museet, Oslo, Norway; Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany
- 2005 *Strata*, Skulpturens Hus, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2004 *Norwegen heute-keramisch*, Hetjens-Museum, Düsseldorf, Germany
- 2003 *NOW&NOW*, World Ceramic Biennale 2003, Icheon, South Korea
- 2002 *Keramik aus Norwegen*, Galerie Handwerk, Munich, Germany
- 2001 *Fifty Years of the Archie Bray Influence*, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT  
*1st World Ceramic Biennale 2001*, Icheon, South Korea  
*The 52st Int. Ceramic Art Competition*, Faenza, Italy
- 2000 *Ceramic Circus 2000*, Les Printemps des Poties, Bandol, France  
*Norwegian Alternatives*, IADB-Cultural Center, Washington, DC  
*Sidney Myer International Ceramic Award*, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton, Australia
- 1999 *The 51st International Ceramic Art Competition*, Faenza, Italy  
*Norwegian Contemporary Ceramics*, Millenium Symposium, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*Different Stokes*, Invitational Exhibition, University of Iowa, University Heights, IA
- 1998 *Stars*, Galleri Inger Molin, Stockholm, Sweden  
*The Fletcher Challenge Award*, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Ceramic Art 1988–1998*, Danmarks Keramikmuseum Grimmerhus, Middelfart, Denmark  
*Nordic Ceramic Triennale '98*, The Swedish History Museum, Stockholm, Sweden  
*Sweden-Norway-Expo Lära*, Västerås Art Museum, Västerås, Sweden
- 1997 *Ceramic Expressionism: Seven Norwegian Ceramicists*. Danmarks Keramikmuseum Grimmerhus, Middelfart, Denmark
- 1997 Archie Bray Foundation NCECA, Green Valley Library Gallery, Las Vegas, NV  
*The Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award*, Award of Merit, Auckland War Memorial Museum,

Auckland, New Zealand

- 1996 *Resident Artist Exhibition*, Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT  
*Scandinavian Images*, University of Durham, Durham, UK  
*Italy-Norway*, Centro Esposivito della Rocca Paolina, Perugia, Italy  
Museum voor Sierkunst, Ghent, Belgium  
Badisches Landesmuseum, Karlsruhe, Germany  
*Neue Wege International*, Saarländisches Künstlerhaus, Saarbrücken, Germany  
*Woodfired Ceramics*, Loes and Rainier International Ceramics, Deventer, The Netherlands
- 1995 *The Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award*, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Woodstack*, The Gallery of Visual Arts, University of Montana, Missoula, MT  
*NCECA Clay National '95*, F.R. Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN
- 1994–1996 *Nordic Images*, Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, Oslo, Norway; Helsinki Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, Helsinki, Finland; Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden; Museum of Decorative Art and Design, Copenhagen, Denmark; Röhsska Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, Gothenburg, Sweden; West Norway Museum of Decorative Art, Bergen, Norway; National Museum of Decorative Arts, Trondheim, Norway
- 1994 *Fire Men: Masters of the Anagama Kiln*, Leedy-Voukos Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
*The Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award*, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland, New Zealand  
*In Touch*, International Contemporary Crafts, part of the Cultural Programme of the XVII Olympic Winter Games 1994, Maihaugen, Lillehammer, Norway
- 1993 *Mastermeeting, Ringebu Workshop 1993*, Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, Oslo, Norway  
*Pulverturm am Schlosswall, Artothek in der Peterstrasse*, Oldenburg, Germany  
*The Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award*, Judges Commendation, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland, New Zealand
- 1992 *Hot Clay from Cold Climates*, North Project, Art Evo Gallery, Edmonton, Canada
- 1990–1992 *Contemporary Norwegian Ceramics*, Touring Exhibition: Keramion, Frechen, Germany; Kunstgewerbemuseum, Berlin, Germany; Schloss Gottorf, Schleswig, Germany; Polytechnic Gallery, Newcastle, UK; Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth, UK; Crafts Council, Dublin, Ireland; Arts Council Gallery, Belfast, Ireland; World Expo, Seville, Spain; Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY; National Museum of Ceramic Art, Baltimore, MD
- 1991 47th Concorso Internazionale della Ceramica d'Arte, Faenza, Italy

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2008–2011 External Examiner Royal College of Art, London, UK

2000–2008 Professor and Head of Ceramics & Glass Department at Konstfack – University

College of Arts, Crafts and Design, Stockholm, Sweden

1996-2000 Professor and Head of Ceramic Art Department at HDK – School of Design and Crafts, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

1998 Judge of the Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, Auckland, New Zealand

1985 Guest teacher, external examiner for diploma and special subject examinations, member of boards, member of appointment boards for lectures/professors, Oslo, Norway

National Academy of Arts and Bergen Academy of Art and Design, Norway

## **AWARDS**

2017 Grand Prize at the Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale (GICB2017), Rep. of Korea

2012 Prize for best art work, The Annual Exhibition of Arts and Crafts 2012, Norway

2010 Janet Mansfield Fellowship Award, Australia

2009 The Norwegian Association for Arts and Crafts Honourable Prize  
Ringebu Municipality Culture Prize

2008 Villeroy & Boch Gustavsberg ceramics grant.

2001 Silver Prize, 1st World Ceramic Biennale 2001 (GICB2001), Rep. of Korea

1999 Premio Faenza, 1. prize in the 51. Premio Faenza Concorso Internazionale, Italy

1997 Embryo 1997, awarded for the best art education in Sweden

Award of Merit, Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, New Zealand

1995 The Gudbrandsdalen Cultural Award

1993 Judge's Commendation, Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, New Zealand

## **COLLECTIONS**

Arts Council Norway

Auckland Museum Institute, Auckland, New Zealand

Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, MO

Designmuseum Danmark, Copenhagen, Denmark

Drammens Museum

Dr. Anthony Rucela Collection, Kansas City, MO

Dr. Hans Thiemann Collection, Hamburg, Germany

Icheon World Ceramic Center, Icheon, South Korea

KODE Art Museums of Bergen, Norway

Leedy-Voukos Gallery, Kansas City, MO

Lillehammer Art Museum, Norway

Lotte Reimers Stiftung Kunstzentrum, Deidesheim, Germany

Maurice Lambiotte Collection, Paris, France

Musée National Adrien Dubouché, Limoges, France

Mr. And Mrs. Inge Münz Collection, Saarbrücken, Germany

Mr. and Mrs. William Van Keppel Collection, Kansas City, MO  
Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche, Faenza, Italy  
Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu Ceramics-Park Mino, Gifu, Japan  
Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden  
Norges Bank, London, UK  
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway  
Oppland County, Norway  
Riksgalleriet, The National Touring Exhibitions of Norway  
Ringebu Municipality, Norway  
The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo, Norway  
The National Museum of Decorative Arts, Trondheim, Norway  
The Röhsska Museum, Gothenburg, Sweden  
Trondheim Municipality, Norway  
Swedish Art Council, Sweden  
SKMU Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, Kristiansand, Norway

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2013 Veiteberg, Jorunn and Kerstin Wickman. *Torbjørn Kvasbø Ceramics: Between the Possible and the Impossible*, Arnoldsche Art Publishers.
- 2010 Harrod, Tanya. "The Everyday and the Numinous," *Contemporary British Studio Ceramics: The Grainer Collection*, redigert av Annie Carlano, pp. 11–30. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- 2008 Battle, Michel. "Terres Extremes," *Ceramics Monthly*, Vol. 55, April, pp. 20–22.
- 2007 Sempere, Emili and Arnold Annen. "Una exposició extraordinària," *Revista Ceràmica Contemporània*, no. 31, pp. 72–75.  
Lambiotte, Maurice and Carole Andrèani. *Contemporary Pottery: Collection Maurice Lambiotte*, Paris: Norma, pp. 134–137.
- 2004 Dewald, Gabi. "Über das Unbezähmbare," *Keramik Magazin*, no. 2, pp. 22–25.  
Veiteberg, Jorunn. "Making the Invisible Visible," *Kunsthåndverk*, no. 91, 1/2004, pp. 22–23.  
Stensman, Mailis. "Brandens mästare," *Konsthantverk*, no. 2, pp. 30–35.
- 2003 Kvasbø, Torbjørn. *Ceramics*, catalogue, Arendal: Bomuldsfabriken Kunsthall.
- 2001 Jonson, Lotta. "The Universe of Clay," *Form*, no. 4, pp. 62–67.
- 2000 Dewald, Gabi. "Ich habe keine Angst," *Keramik Magazin*, no. 1, pp. 24–30.  
Andreani, Carole. "Torbjørn Kvasbø: Une dramaturgie de l'homme et de la nature," *Revue Ceramique et du Verre*, no. 113, July/August, pp. 34–39.  
Brühl, Birgit. "Der Norweger Torbjørn Kvasbø," *Neue Keramik*, no. 5 Sept/Oct., pp. 270–271.  
Minogue, Coll and Sanderson, Robert. *Wood-fired Ceramics Contemporary Practices*, London: A & B Black, pp. 78–80.
- 1999 Veiteberg, Jorunn. "Torbjørn Kvasbø," Kvasbø, Torbjørn and Veiteberg, Jorunn (eds.), 1999.



- Norwegian Contemporary Ceramics, exhib. cat., *Amsterdam under Ceramic Millenium*,  
Leadership Congress for the Ceramic Arts, pp. 30–31.
- 1996 Broadwell, Carolyn. “Torbjørn Kvasbø”, *Ceramic Art Magazine*, no. 10, pp. 84–89. (Taiwan)
- 1993 Danbolt, Gunnar. “Between Nature and Civilisation. Ceramic Art of Torbjørn Kvasbø,”  
*Ceramics: Art & Perception*, no. 13, pp. 3–7, 89–91.
- 1992 Kvasbø, Torbjørn. “Don’t Ever Get a Steady Job,” *Ceramics Monthly*, April Issue, pp. 41–48.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

- 2018–2024 President of the International Academy of Ceramics
- 2014–2020 Vice President of the International Academy of Ceramics
- 2005–2014 Member of the Council of the IAC
- 1990 Member of the International Academy of Ceramics (IAC)
- 1978 Norwegian Association of Arts and Crafts