

HOSTLER | BURROWS

Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl

Danish, b. 1954

Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl is a ceramic artist based in Copenhagen, Denmark. He has worked with a myriad of spatial themes and ornaments that frequently reoccur in his formal vocabulary, and which emerge through a methodical, gradual and experimental serial process. Notably, the knot as a shape has been a leitmotif offering possibilities for various sinuous rhythmic cadences and abstract narratives. The hand built architectonic works appear as 'spatial drawings'—solid, twisting and turning through space. Kaldahl's interest also lies in the potential of the object to make a direct emotional impact on the viewer. The motif is always clear in its simplicity and easily decoded while remaining open to interpretations.

The fundamental existence of objects in space is brought into sharp focus in the work of Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl. Through his process he transforms everyday minimal phenomena into sculptural expressions utilizing a precise, formal fashioning of the material. With a keen eye for the monumental within the insignificant, his works emerge out of a process that creates conditions for an intuitive form. While Kaldahl works from an overall vision, he incorporates stumbling blocks into the actual construction of the works in order to relinquish control, allowing the form to evolve and thereby avoiding predictability. Akin to doodling, where consciousness is only partially present, he builds larger structures out of smaller bits of clay tubes which, at random, become a dancing sequence that moves up and down, almost reeling out into space. The use of strong, clear colors adds an insistent dynamism and energy to the works; this in tandem with the form's own statement and potential to initiate emotion, manifest in a clear and easily decipherable expression that remains open to many different interpretations.