

# HOSTLER BURROWS



TORBJØRN KVASBØ (Norwegian, b. 1953)  
*Stack, Black Unglazed*, 2014  
Stoneware  
39" H x 36" W x 32" D

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## **TORBJØRN KVASBØ** **Norwegian, b. 1953**

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 the Professor and Head of the Ceramics Department at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and from 2000 to 2008, he was Professor and Head of the Ceramic and Glass Department at Konstfack, 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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## 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

## EDUCATION

- 1975-1978 Bergen School of Applied Arts (Bergen Academy of Art and Design), Norway

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Taoxichuan Museum, Jingdezhen, China
- 2019 GICB2019, Korea. Sept. 27.-Nov. 24.
- 2018 The Byre, Ringeby Parsonage (Fjøset, Ringeby Prestegard)
- 2017 The Byre, Ringeby Parsonage (Fjøset, Ringeby 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, California, USA
- 1994 Leedy-Voukos Gallery, Kansas City, MO, USA  
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, USA

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- 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 every year, 2012 “The Annual Exhibition of Norwegian Crafts”, different venues, Norway

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2019 Gallery Format, Nomad Venice, Italy  
Museum Angewandte Kunst, “House of Norway” Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
SKMU Kristiansand  
Officine Saffi, Morfologia delle Meraviglie, Italy  
Porselensmuseet Porsgrunn. Jan. 17.-March 17.  
KODE Bergen May 10.-Sept. 15.
- 2018 Sevres Ceramic Museum, Paris. Sept. 23.-April 1.  
About Clay, Exhibition of European Ceramic Art in Fiskars, Finland
- 2017 4th Documentary Exhibition of Fine Arts/ Stress Field. Hubei Museum of Art, Hubei, China  
Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale (GICB2017), Rep. of Korea
- 2016 Officine Saffi, Milano, Italy. “Geometry of Chaos”. Carlo Zauli-Torbjørn Kvasbø  
Liling Ceramics Valley Museum “The Mode-Int. Ceramics Art Invitational”, China  
Hangzhou Int. Contemporary Ceramic Art Biennale, China  
“Inspired”, The Scandinavian Center/TaoXicuang Museum Jingdezhen, China  
International Trade Fair in Munich, “Modern Masters”
- 2015 International Wood-Firing Festival, Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts, Kina  
“Beyond G(l)aze, KODE2, Bergen Norway  
“Transformator”, Galleri Format, Oslo Norway  
“Transformator”, Hydrogenfabrikken Fredrikstad, Norway
- 2014 SOFA, Chicago, USA  
“Transformator”. 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, Great Britain
- 2012 “Collect”, Saatchi Gallery, London, Great Britain  
“Less Colour”, Rogaland Art Centre, Stavanger, Norway
- 2011 “Collect”, Saatchi Gallery, London, Great Britain

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- 2010 “Le Cru et le Cuit” Galerie Favardin & De Verneuil, Paris, France  
“Clay Energy Gulgong”, Masters Exhibition, Cudgegong Gallery, Gulgong, NSW Australia  
“Collect”, Saatchi Gallery, London, Great Britain  
“Intonation”, Deidesheim, Germany  
“Taiwan Ceramics Biennale”, Yingge Ceramics Museum, Yingge, New Taipei City, Taiwan
- 2009 “British Ceramic Biennial”, Airspace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, Great Britain  
“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, MT, USA  
“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 D.C., USA  
“Sidney Myer International Ceramic Award”, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton VIC, 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, USA
- 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. 7 Norwegian Ceramicist”. Danmarks Keramikmuseum Grimmerhus, Middelfart, Denmark

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- 1997 Archie Bray Foundation NCECA, Green Valley Library Gallery, Las Vegas, NV, USA  
“The Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award”, Award of Merit, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland, New Zealand
- 1996 “Resident Artist Exhibition”, Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT, USA  
“Scandinavian Images”, University of Durham, Durham, Great Britain  
“Italy-Norway”, Centro Esposivito della Rocca Paolina, Perugia, Italy  
Museum voor Sierkunst, Gent, 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, USA  
“NCECA Clay National ‘95”, F.R.Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN, USA
- 1994-96 “Nordic Images”, Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, Oslo, Norway: Helsinki Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, 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, USA  
“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
- 1990-92 “Contemporary Norwegian Ceramics”, touring exhibition, Keramion, Frechen, Germany: Kunstgewerbemuseum, Berlin, Germany: Schloss Gottorf, Schleswig, Germany: Polytechnic Gallery, Newcastle, Great Britain: Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth, Great Britain: Crafts Council, Dublin, Ireland: Arts Council Gallery, Belfast, Ireland: World Expo, Sevilla, Spain: Everson Museum of Art,

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1991 Syracuse, NY, USA: National Museum of Ceramic Art, Baltimore, MD, USA  
"47. Concorso Internazionale Della Ceramica D`arte", Faenza, Italy

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Arts Council Norway  
Auckland Museum Institute, Auckland, New Zealand  
Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, MO, USA  
Designmuseum Danmark, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Drammens Museum  
Dr. Anthony Rucela Collection, Kansas City, MO, USA  
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, USA  
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, USA  
Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche, Faenza, Italy  
Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu Ceramics-Park Mino, Gifu, Japan  
Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden  
Norges Bank, London, Great Britain  
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 PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2008-2011 External examiner Royal College of Art, London, Great Britain  
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

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1985      Guest teacher, external examiner for diploma and special subject examinations, member of boards, member of appointment boards for lectures/professors, Oslo National Academy of Arts and Bergen Academy of Art and Design, Norway

## **LECTURER, GUEST ARTIST, EXHIBITOR, JURY, INTERNATIONAL ADVISER, WORKSHOP CONDUCTOR**

Silica Triennial, Kecskemét, Hungary

60 Faenza Prize, MIC Faenza, Italy.

Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale 2017, Korea

Event Clay Gulgong, Australia

Casa dell' Architettura, Rome, Italy

2010 Taiwan Ceramics Biennale, New Taipei City, Taiwan

British Ceramic Biennial 2009, Marl Hole project, Stoke-on-Trent, Great Britain

Intonation, Deidesheim, Germany

Central Academy of Fine Art, CAFA, Beijing, China

Peters Valley Crafts Centre, Layton., NJ, USA

Cheongju International Craft Biennale, Cheongju, South Korea

Naori Wood Fired Ceramics, KO-EURO, South Korea

Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA

San Jose State University, SAN Jose, CA, USA

San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA, USA

Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, IL, USA

Mendocino Art Center, Mendocino, CA, USA

Napa Valley College, CA, USA

Iowa University, Iowa City, IA, US.

Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT, USA

Montana University, Missoula, MT, USA

Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO, USA

University of Ohio, Athens, OH, USA

Red Deer College, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada

"The Works Visual Arts Festival", Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Alberta University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Banff Centre for the Arts, Alberta, Canada

"NCECA", Tempe, Arizona, AZ, USA

"NCECA", Philadelphia, PA, USA

"NCECA", New Orleans, LA, USA

University of Industrial Arts, Helsinki, Finland

Konstfack College of Art, Stockholm, Sweden

Kent State University, Kent, OH, USA

Kolding College of Applied Arts, Kolding, Denmark

Kecskemét International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemét, Hungary

Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, Auckland, New Zealand



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Auckland Studio Potters Centre, Auckland, New Zealand  
Clay-Sculpt Gulgong, Janet Mansfield, Gulgong, NSW, Australia  
“The Edge”, Perth, WA, Australia  
“Cotta terra”, Perugia, Italy  
Faenza, Italy  
“Les Printemps des Poitiers”, Bandol, France  
“Recontres La Borne”, La Borne, France  
Handwerkskammer für München und Oberbayern, Munich, Germany  
World Ceramic Biennale, South Korea  
The Sculptor Factory, Jingdezhen, China

## SELECTED 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

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

1992, Kvasbø, Torbjørn: “Don’t ever get a steady job”, in Ceramics Monthly, April issue, pp. 41-48  
1993, Danbolt, Gunnar: “Between Nature and Civilisation. Ceramic Art of Torbjørn Kvasbø”, in Ceramics: Art & Perception, no. 13, pp. 3-7, 89-91.  
1996, Broadwell, Carolyn: “Torbjørn Kvasbø”, in Ceramic Art magazine, no. 10, pp.84-89. (Taiwan)  
1999, Veiteberg, Jorunn: “Torbjørn Kvasbø”, in 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.  
2000, Dewald, Gabi: “Ich habe keine Angst”, in Keramik Magazin no. 1, pp. 24-30.  
2000, Andreani, Carole: “Torbjørn Kvasbø – Une dramaturgie de l’homme et de la nature”, in Revue Ceramique et du Verre, no. 113, July-August, pp. 34-39.  
2000, Brühl, Birgit: “Der Norweger Torbjørn Kvasbø”, in Neue Keramik no. 5 Sept/Oct., pp 270-271.  
2000, Minogue, Coll and Sanderson, Robert: Wood-fired Ceramics Contemporary Practices,

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London: A & B Black, pp. 78-80.

2001, Jonson, Lotta: "The Universe of Clay", in Form no. 4, pp. 62-67.

2003, Torbjørn Kvasbø – ceramics, catalogue, Arendal: Bomuldsfabriken Kunsthall.

2004, Dewald, Gabi: „Über das Unbezähmbare“, in Keramik magazin, no. 2, pp. 22-25.

2004, Veiteberg, Jorunn: "Making the invisible visible", in Kunsthåndverk, no. 91, 1/2004, pp. 22-23.

2004, Stensman, Mailis: „Brandens mästare“, in Konsthantverk, no. 2, pp. 30-35.

2007, Sempere, Emili: Arnold Annen. Una exposició extraordinària, in Revista Ceràmica Contemporània no 31, pp 72-75.

2007, Lambiotte, Maurice and Andrèani, Carole: Contemporary Pottery: Collection Maurice Lambiotte, Paris: Norma, pp. 134-137.

2008, Battle, Michel: "Terres Extremes", in Ceramics Monthly vol. 55, April, pp. 20-22

2010 Harrod Tanya. "The everyday and the numinous". Contemporary British studio ceramics : the Grainer Collection, redigert av Annie Carlano, 11-30. New Haven: Yale University Press.

2013, Jorunn Veiteberg and Kerstin Wickman: "Torbjørn Kvasbø Ceramics – Between the Possible and the Impossible". Arnoldsche Art Publishers. ISBN 978-3-89790-384-5