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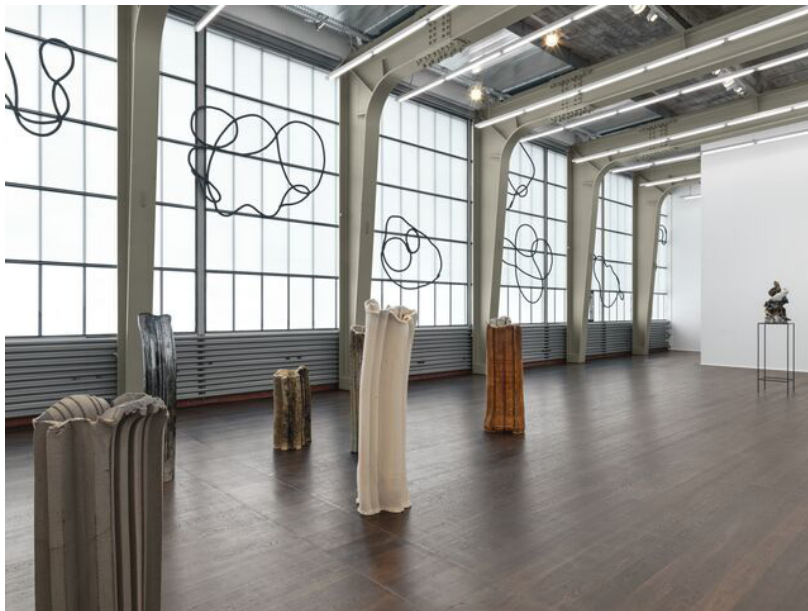
Press Release

David Zink Yi. Rare Earths

Hauser & Wirth Zürich

17 January – 29 February 2020

Opening reception: 16 January 2020, 6 – 8 pm



Hauser & Wirth is delighted to present an exhibition by David Zink Yi titled, 'Rare Earths'. The exhibition comprises new ceramic works which engage with the artist's direct and intuitive approach to his practice. Rooted in process-based abstraction and the alchemic possibilities of the artist's materials, the exhibited bodies of works represent a point of departure from previous ceramic sculptural pieces as the artist's new aesthetic diverges from figuration.

Zink Yi is a multimedia artist par excellence. He works with film, installation, performance, sculpture, ceramics, and by extension (in the form of glazes and prints, for example) also with painting. This leads to completely new forms of expression and subjects, yet there is one invisible thread that unites his work: his interest in processes, origins, and the organic connections of things that are imbued with a sensual and intuitive component. Whether they are landscape photographs, jazz music, or ceramics, Zink Yi's works are grounded in working with the hands—about the relationship of the body to the object and the spirit playing with fantasy.

This direct, resolute approach to materials stems from Zink Yi's background. Born in Lima, Peru, in 1973, he grew up with his Chinese grandfather who ran a tannery and also had an impressive collection of Chinese ceramics at home, which was a source of great fascination for Zink Yi as a child. His other grandfather, who was originally from Germany, was a cooper who built his own furniture for his home. Zink Yi decided to go to Germany for his studies, and he first trained as a cook, before studying wood sculpture in Munich and visual arts in Berlin. Growing up in surroundings characterised by crafts and different cultures had an impact on Zink Yi's conception of himself as an artist: not only is a certain amount of eclecticism inherent in his work, it is actually the fertile ground on which he constantly develops his work with patience, curiosity, and the pleasure of experimentation with forms, colours, and materials.

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The current exhibition at Hauser & Wirth Zürich represents a completely new approach to this basic concept. The large kiln for ceramics in Zink Yi's Berlin studio, allows him to create objects ranging from small to over life-size. With it he has created a series of playful, bowl-like forms, made of dark stoneware, which he has positioned on the gallery's large window façade. Titled 'Garabato', which translates as 'scribble' in Spanish, these forms stand out from the transparent surface like abstract drawings. While their sculptural character evokes the simple vocabulary of Post-Minimalism, their manual, crafted component is evident.

The viewer encounters a group of steles in the space made from fired stoneware of various colours in a similar way. Their forms mainly derive from the floorplans of high-rise buildings in Hong Kong. Imperfections that are part of the production and firing process give a performative component to the sculptures. This impression is supported by the diversely glazed sculpture 'Untitled (rk1 Climax)'. Both work groups exude something open, raw, and consciously unfinished.

A multitude of smaller, longer, and colourfully glazed sculptures ('All My Colours') complete this interplay: placed in a long row on the wall, they form an abstract, serially arranged relief, while being simultaneously reminiscent of samples of materials or glazes, or simply of fish, slugs, or other sea creatures. The ensemble that Zink Yi has composed for this exhibition is enigmatic: each individual part conveys a tone that contributes to the collective sound of this maritime, minimalistic fabric of associations.



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About the artist

Born in Lima in 1973, Zink Yi left Peru for Germany at the age of 16. Drawing inspiration from his own experiences, he interrogates the complex aspects of identity construction through his multi-disciplinary practice; encompassing film, photography, sculpture, performance, ceramics and multi-channel video installations, which all emphasize the social interrelation of the protagonists, as well as physiological aspects of musical perception.

Recent solo exhibitions include 'Carlone Contemporary', Belvedere, Vienna, Austria (2018); 'Being the Measure', Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown MA (2016); Charles H. Scott Gallery, Vancouver, Canada (2015); 'Why Am I Here And Not Elsewhere – Independencia II', Kunstverein Braunschweig, Braunschweig, Germany (2013) and Hauser & Wirth Zürich (2013); n.b.k. Neue Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin, Germany (2012); 'Horror Vacui', Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis MN (2011); He has exhibited in numerous group exhibitions and Biennales in the United States, Europe, and Latin America.

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Gallery hours:

Monday to Friday, 11 am – 6 pm
Saturday, 11 am – 5 pm

www.hauserwirth.com

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Installation view, 'David Zink Yi. Rare Earths' ©
David Zink Yi. Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

David Zink Yi
Untitled (rk1 Climax)
2019
Glazed stoneware
76 x 41 x 40 cm / 29 7/8 x 16 1/8 x 15 3/4 in
© David Zink Yi
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth
Photo: Wolfgang Stahr

David Zink Yi
All My Colours
Installation view, 225 parts
© David Zink Yi
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth