

Galleri Riis

MARTE JOHNSLIEN

The Spoon and the Silica
Ceramic Sculpture

February 24 – March 26, 2022

We are pleased to present a new exhibition with the Norwegian artist Marte Johnslie, her third with the gallery since 2011. Johnslie's practice encompasses architectonic sculptures, installations, photography, and artist's books – separately or combined, often derived from processes examining a wide range of issues. Probing into themes by way of seeking first-hand experiences and collecting material, and from these observations she develops and gives shape to what she refers to as the "project's logic". For her exhibition in the gallery's annex space, she has assembled a ceramic sculpture bringing together several elements from her artistic research into the medium.

First, there is a point.

The point becomes a line.

Three lines form a triangle.

Four triangles make a tetrahedron.

Two or more interlinked tetrahedra made of silicon and oxygen form a group of minerals called silicates.

Silica is the building block of approximately 75% of Earth's crust.

The pyramidal shape of silica molecules gives rocks sharp angles and shiny surfaces. Silica can be crystalline and beautiful - like an ore of shiny quartz in a dark rock - although hostile to smooth skin and soft tissue. Silica becomes fluid with high temperature. In the cooling process the tetrahedron pyramids form bonds and networks once again, becoming the cold and sharp materials we know as crystals, glass or glaze.

The Earth's tectonic plates are made of a large amount of silica which keep us safe from the fluid core of our planet.

The tectonic plates move at the same speed as human fingernails grow, NASA says.

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The Spoon and the Silica is an experimental ceramic sculpture made with stoneware clay, steel mesh, ceramic glaze, recycled porcelain tiles and silica green stones – a waste material from a smelting plant in Norway. In this site-specific sculpture I have allowed silica to melt and fuse with metal and clay on the porcelain tiles, creating scenes both of growth and collapse.

- Marte Johnslie, February 2022

Marte Johnslie (b. 1977 in Lillehammer, Norway) received her artistic education at the National Academy of the Arts in Oslo, where she also earned a PhD in Artistic Research in 2020. She combines her artistic practice with being a teacher in Ceramic Art at the department of Art and Craft (KhiO). She lives and works in Oslo and Stokke.