

DE PONT MUSEUM

Press Release: 50 years of EKWC at De Pont Museum

DE PONT CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF EUROPEAN CERAMIC WORKCENTRE



Norbert Prangenberg

Norbert Prangenberg, Markus Karstieß and Stefanie Brehm

28 Nov 2019 - 9 Feb 2020

opening on Thursday 28 November, 5 pm

In celebration of the European Ceramic Workcentre's fiftieth anniversary, De Pont Museum is presenting the work of three generations of German artists who took part in the center's artist-in-residence program in the past decades: **Norbert Prangenberg** (Nettesheim, 1949 – Krefeld 2012), **Markus Karstieß** (Haan, 1971) and **Stefanie Brehm** (Bamberg, 1980). Both Karstieß and Brehm were strongly influenced by Prangenberg. Within the context of the EKWC's anniversary, the work of these three artists is being shown together for the first time. All three artists produce large, monumental sculptures that resemble figures or columns. In handling the wet material and building the work upward, each uses a different technique – modelling, coiling and throwing, respectively.

De Pont director Martijn van Nieuwenhuyzen: "We cherish the EKWC, because it enables artists from a wide variety of backgrounds to experiment with ceramics. By doing so the EKWC has contributed to the further emancipation of the medium within visual art, but has also given artists the opportunity to expand the limits of their own artistic practice."



With **Stefanie Brehm**, the youngest of the three artists, ceramic elements mainly serve as two- or three-dimensional surfaces for abstract paintings. She gives hand-thrown ceramic columns a smooth finish and paints them in vividly colored glazes.

Brehm studied with **Norbert Prangenberg**, who had been teaching as a professor at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Munich since 1993. As a painter Prangenberg participated in *documenta 7*, held in Kassel in 1982 and curated by artistic director Rudi Fuchs. During the 1990s Prangenberg started working in plaster, concrete and ceramics. This led to several work periods at the EKWC. Prangenberg makes use of basic forms and techniques that are common in ceramics: vase shapes and strands of clay. Hundreds of meters of clay are turned into large expressive sculptures, both reclining and upright. These are reminiscent of vessels but also of human figures.



At the opening of a retrospective of Prangenberg's work at Keramikmuseum Westerwald in 2019, **Markus Karstieß** spoke as someone who knew Prangenberg personally. The works of both of these artists show traces of their hands kneading the clay. Karstieß, who succeeded Prangenberg in Munich in 2015 and had Brehm in his class, kneads the clay while attempting to do the same thing with his left and right hands. This results in abstract figures reminiscent of Rorschach tests. The three-dimensional figures also bear a similarity to totem poles.

About the EKWC:

The EKWC was founded in Heusden on December 4, 1969. In 1991 it became the European Ceramic Workcentre on moving to 's-Hertogenbosch. Since 2015 the center has been based in Oisterwijk. As a post-academic institute, it is dedicated to the development of ceramics in art, design and architecture. It functions as a center of expertise and offers an artist-in-residence program that welcomes participants from all over the world. Artists such as Marien Schouten, Rob Birza, Guido Geelen, Anish Kapoor, Berlinde De Bruyckere and Bettie van Haaster, all represented in De Pont's collection, have worked at the EKWC.

EKWC's 50th Year

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Opening on Thursday 28 November, 5-8 pm

For further information, photo material or interview requests,
contact h.zeedijk@depont.nl

De Pont Museum is open from

Tuesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm

Thursday until 8 pm, free admission as of 5 pm

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