

CERAMICS

Spring/Summer 2005

Ireland



€5.50 (Stg. £4.00)

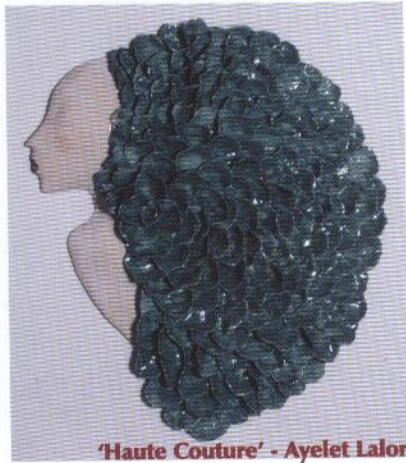
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IT WAS a wet Monday morning in March and sitting damp on the number 37 bus into Dublin city centre my mood was pretty low. I got off the bus on Ormond quay and found myself in The Bridge Gallery at 'Glimpse' an exhibition featuring the work of ceramicists Ayelet

GLIMPSE

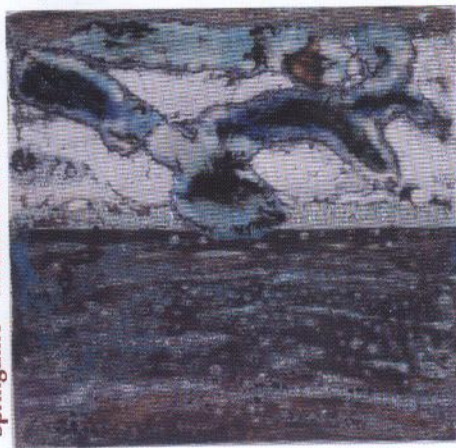


'Haute Couture' - Ayelet Lalor

Lalor, Brigitta Seck and Michele Hannan. Collectively they call themselves 'Kaolin' and they were just what I needed - medicine for the ceramic soul. The room was filled with energy, with talent and with craftsmanship. Of course as individuals they have each enjoyed much

success, but in coming together have really done something very special. Their individual styles while very different from each other, blended easily together and their common determination to achieve excellence in their craft was very evident.

Ayelet Lalor's pieces were dramatic, dynamic and altogether delightful. Her ladies as always were truly lovely, not to mention provocative, passionate and indeed inspired. Her wall pieces seemed to leap off the walls. "Spring Wear" with its subtle,

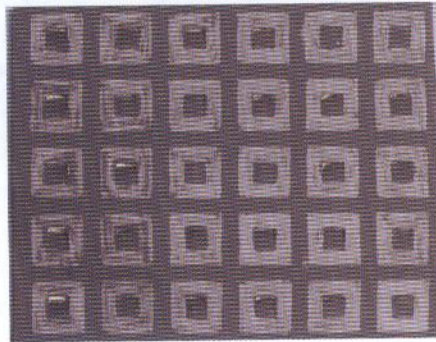


'Springtime' - Michele Hannan

demur and unsuspecting profile was merely a vessel for the most exquisite head piece, in this case what seemed like a shoal of fish! The green tones and texture of the wall pieces

revealed a fusion of plant forms with her normally more figurative work.

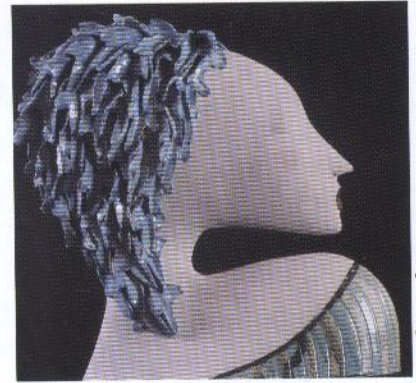
Brigitta Seck's work as we have come to expect, was both striking and contemplative in its approach. She explained to me that her current work (much of which is constructed in paper clay) is particularly concerned with the idea of light and space and the interaction of these two elements. There was a sense of mystery about her pieces, indeed what struck me most was the idea of the possibilities presented by the openings that many of the pieces featured. They provided a brief glimpse into the hidden world behind the pieces. Despite the strong



'Glimpse' - Brigitta Seck

architecture of her forms there was a softness in her work which was very refreshing.

Michele Hannan's pieces invited further touch and thought from the viewer. The texture of her pieces was simply beautiful. Her volcanic glazes had enormous energy in them, there seemed to be anger even fury in their texture yet at the same time like Brigitta's work, there was a softness there too. The inside of her vessels in contrast were deliciously



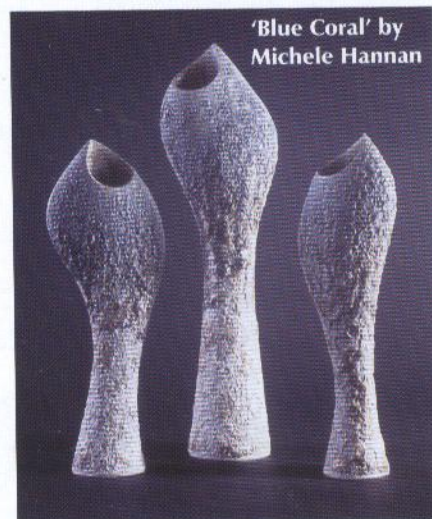
Ayelet Lalor

'What do you think of my hair?'

of the sea. Only the day before visiting this exhibition I had been walking on a beach in Donegal thinking about the rhythm of the ripples on the sand and how the water nestles so perfectly in the

grooves. And here I was 24 hours later in The Bridge Gallery looking at her wall pieces and thinking how beautifully, elegantly and subtly she had captured this in clay.

Looking around at the end of my visit to 'Glimpse' I was no longer damp and tired, instead I felt inspired. I had indeed glimpsed into their collective souls and I had liked, no loved - what I had seen. These three artists modern, thought-provoking and imaginative, capture everything that is right about contemporary ceramic practice in this



'Blue Coral' by Michele Hannan

country. Their next collaboration under the banner of 'Kaolin' will be inspired by the sea, the venue will be The Tramyard in Dalkey but I think I'll drive next time and maybe it won't rain that day!

Michelle Maher

Photographs - Vincent Sneyd