Boris van Berkum
FLOW current works
catalogue

NL 荷兰

Made in Jingdezhen China

Porcelain Painting

Boris van Berkum is een typische Neo-kunstenaar.

Hij zoekt in de humuslaag van de wereld- en kunstgeschiedenis naar wat er van zijn gading is, hij past dit aan zodat er een nieuw actueel kunstwerk ontstaat.

De Neo-methodiek is misschien het meest zichtbaar in het werk dat hij sinds 2010 maakt in opdracht van Winti priesteres Marian Markelo. Boris van Berkum heeft, anders dan Marian Markelo, geen familiewortels in de Afro-Surinaamse cultuur. Zijn engagement is naar zijn zeggen geworteld in zijn fascinatie voor cultuurverschijnselen die niet de zijne zijn, maar die zich wel in zijn omgeving manifesteren, namelijk in de stad, in het land waar hij woont. Met representanten van die uitheemse cultuurverschijnselen, zoals uit China, Iran en Suriname zoekt Van Berkum voortdurend de dialoog. Dat doet hij met mensen die in Nederland werken en wonen, maar ook met personen in het land van herkomst.

In 2019 opent Boris van Berkum het gesprek met de cultuur van het Verre Oosten, in het bijzonder die van China. In Shanghai start hij een studie naar levensbeschouwingen die de fundamenten zijn voor het China anno nu: het Boeddhisme, het Confucianisme en het Taoïsme. De kennis die hij vergaart vertaalt hij direct in zijn ‘schilderijen’ van geglazuurd porselein.

Hij neemt in dat jaar ook deel aan het *Na Space artist residency program* in Jingdezhen, de belangrijkste porseleinstad van China. Hier ontwikkelt van Berkum een eigen en nieuwe techniek: Hij creëert tekens en tekeningen van porseleinslib met een slagroomspuit. De tekens legt hij in composities op de ongebakken en reeds geglazuurde tegel. Tijdens het bakken fixeert de glazuur de vormen op de tegel. Een schilderij ontstaat. De diverse glazuren geven het werk diepte en kleur; de *slagroomtekens* voegen een tactiele laag toe.

In deze digitale catalogus ziet u een selectie van zijn ‘Porcelain Paintings’

Flow
2019 glazed porcelain with gold-luster 820 x 440 x 20 mm

Flow II
2019 glazed porcelain with gold-luster 830 x 450 x 20 mm

Flow III
glazed porcelain with gold-luster 835 x 450 x 20 mm

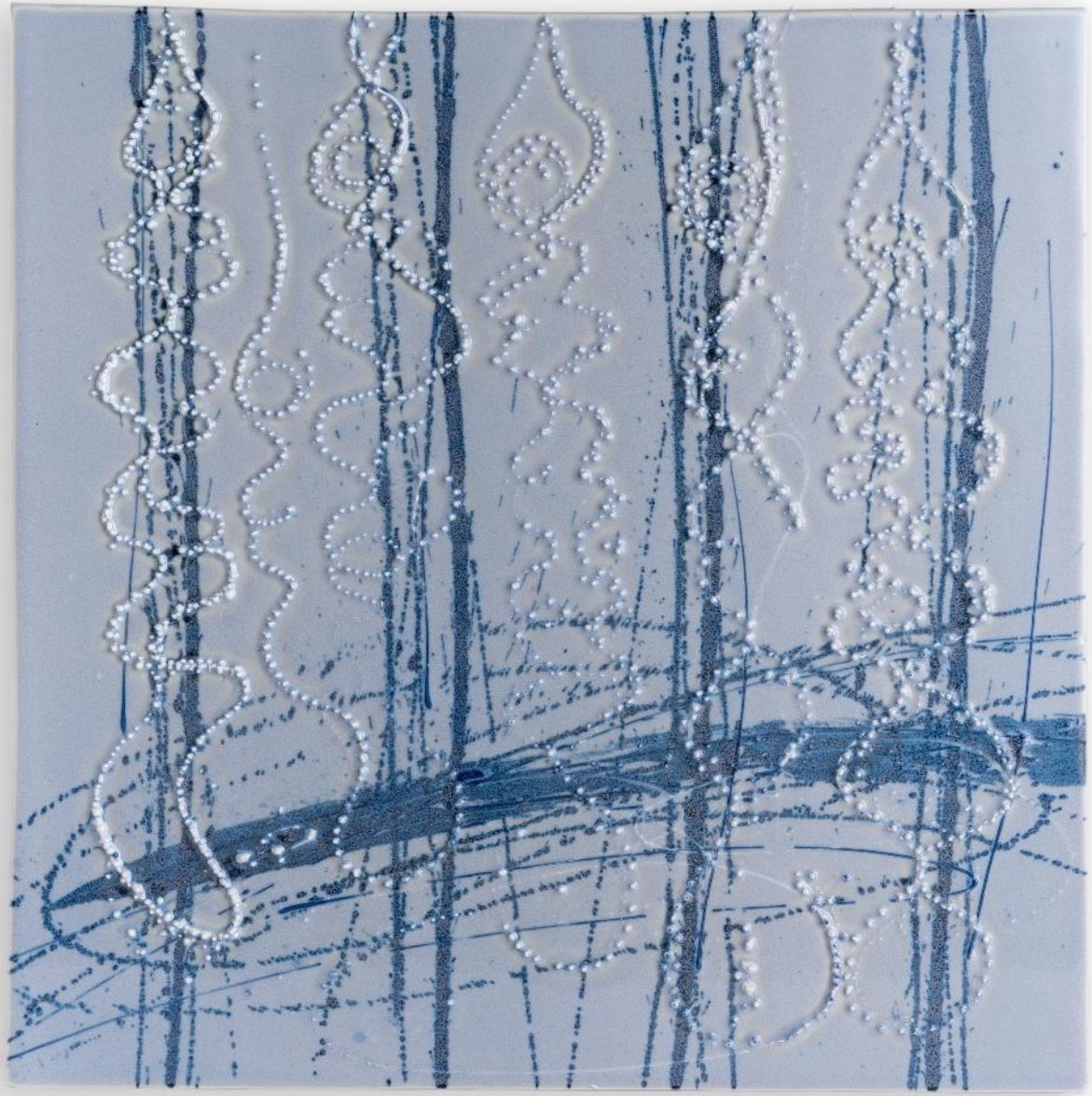
Sun
2019 glazed porcelain 443 x 555 x 30 mm

boudha
2019 glazed porcelain 2019 265 x 442 x 30 mm

Tronie (mug)
2019 glazed porcelain 555 x 450 x 6 mm

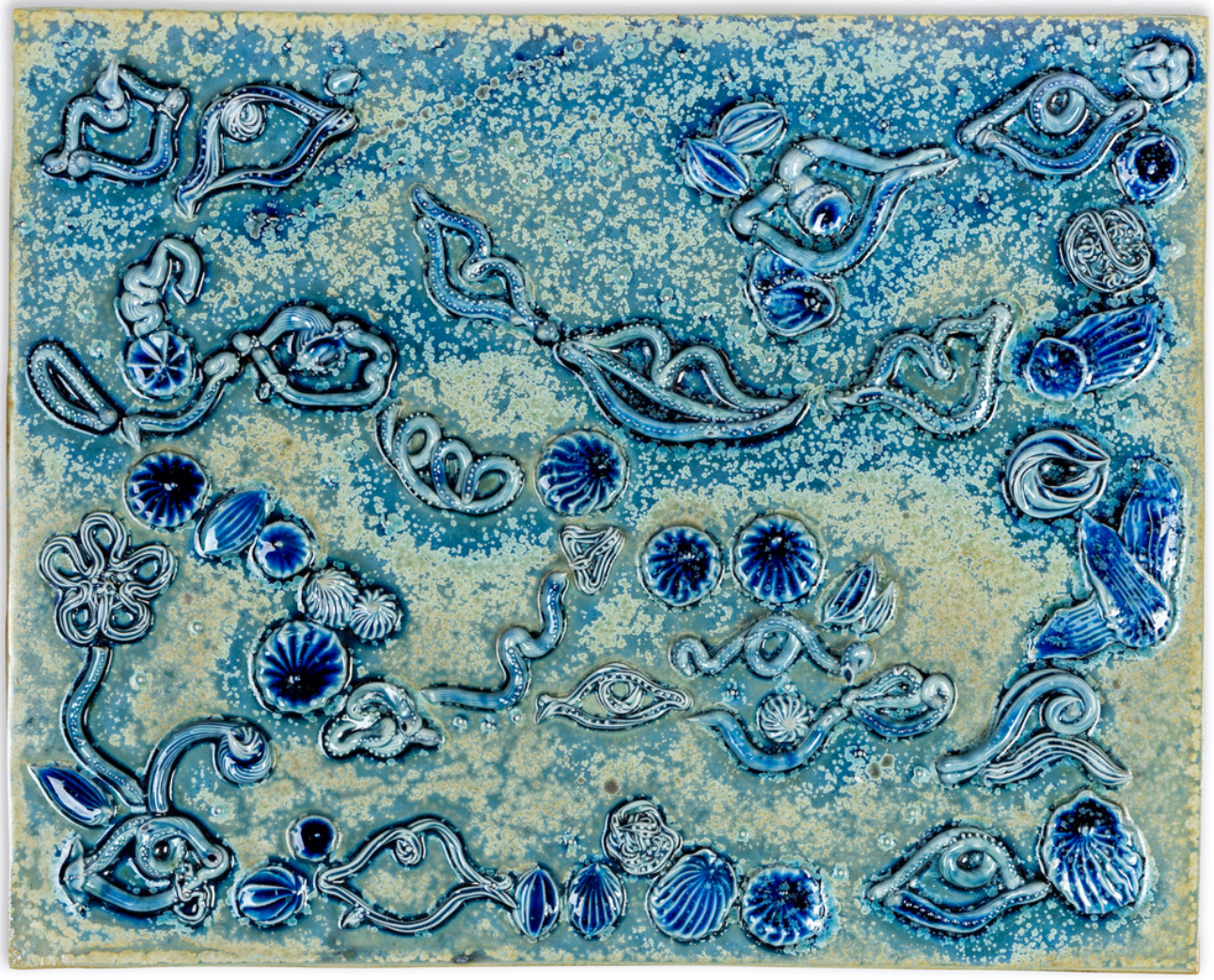
consciousness (city)

2019 glazed porcelain 457 x 457 x25 mm



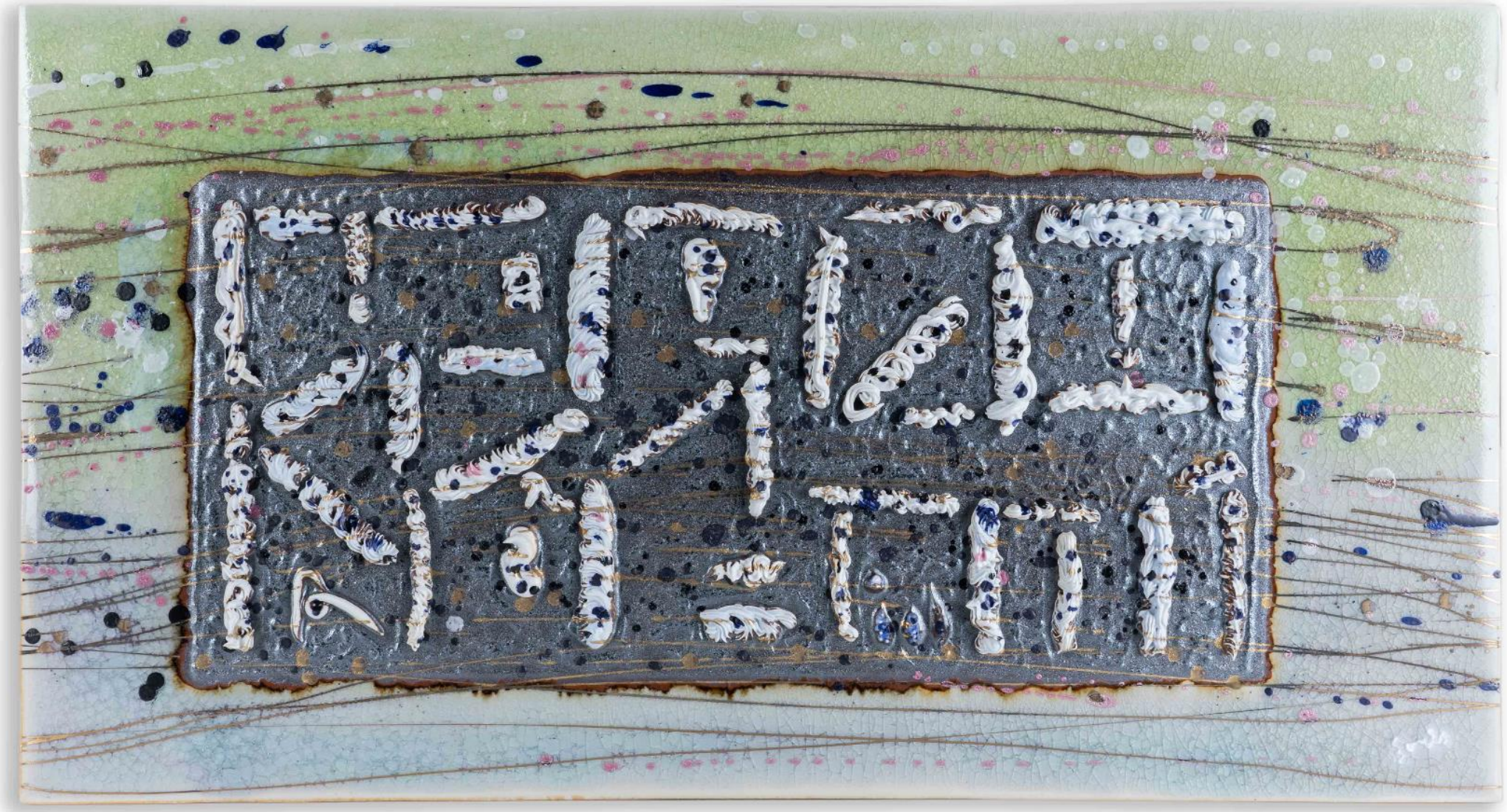
Friends
2019 glazed porcelain 2019 457 x 457 x 25 mm

Pattern
2019 glazed porcelain 457 x 457 x 25 mm

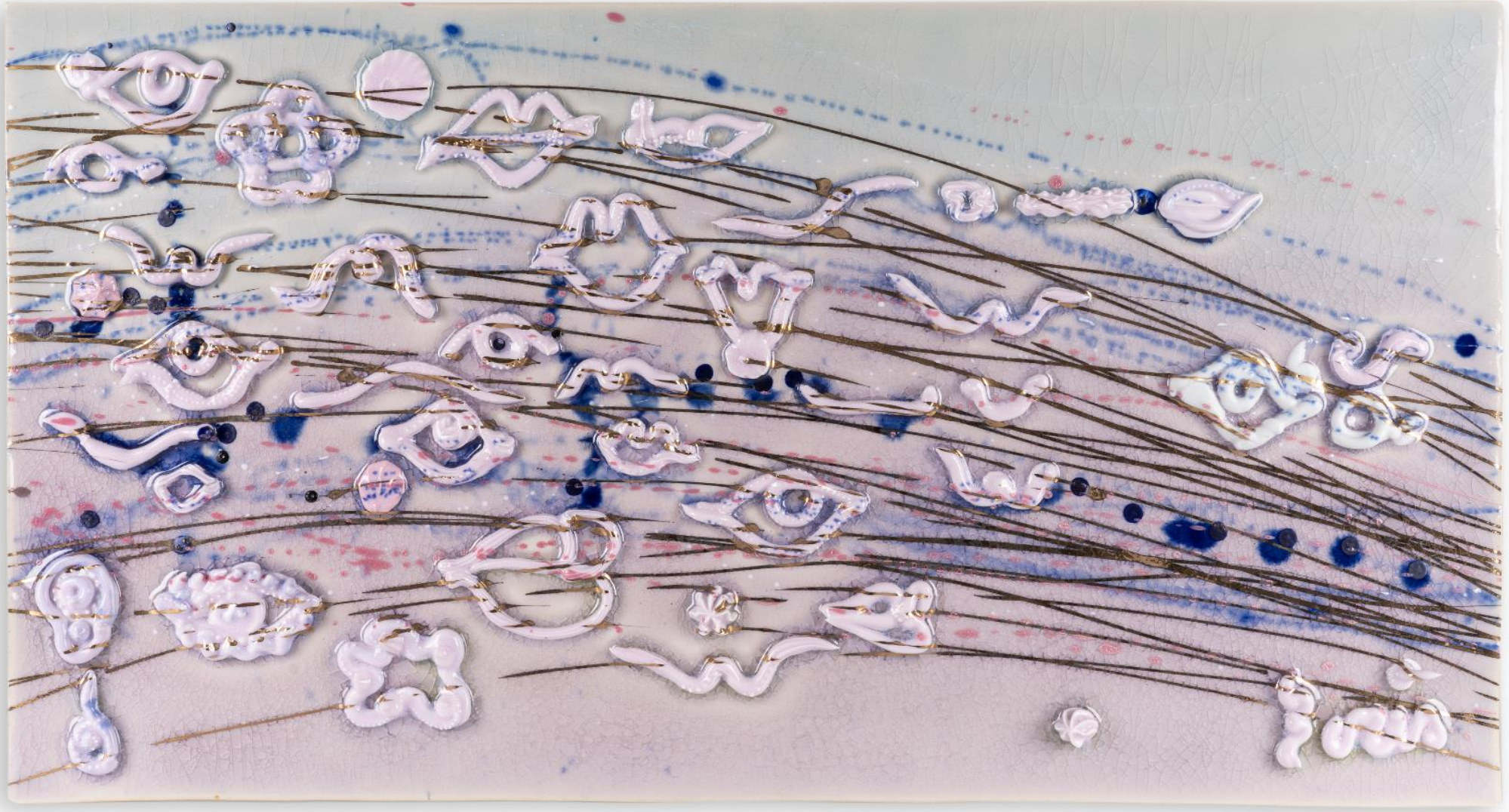


Dream
2019 glazed porcelain 550 x 450 x 35 mm

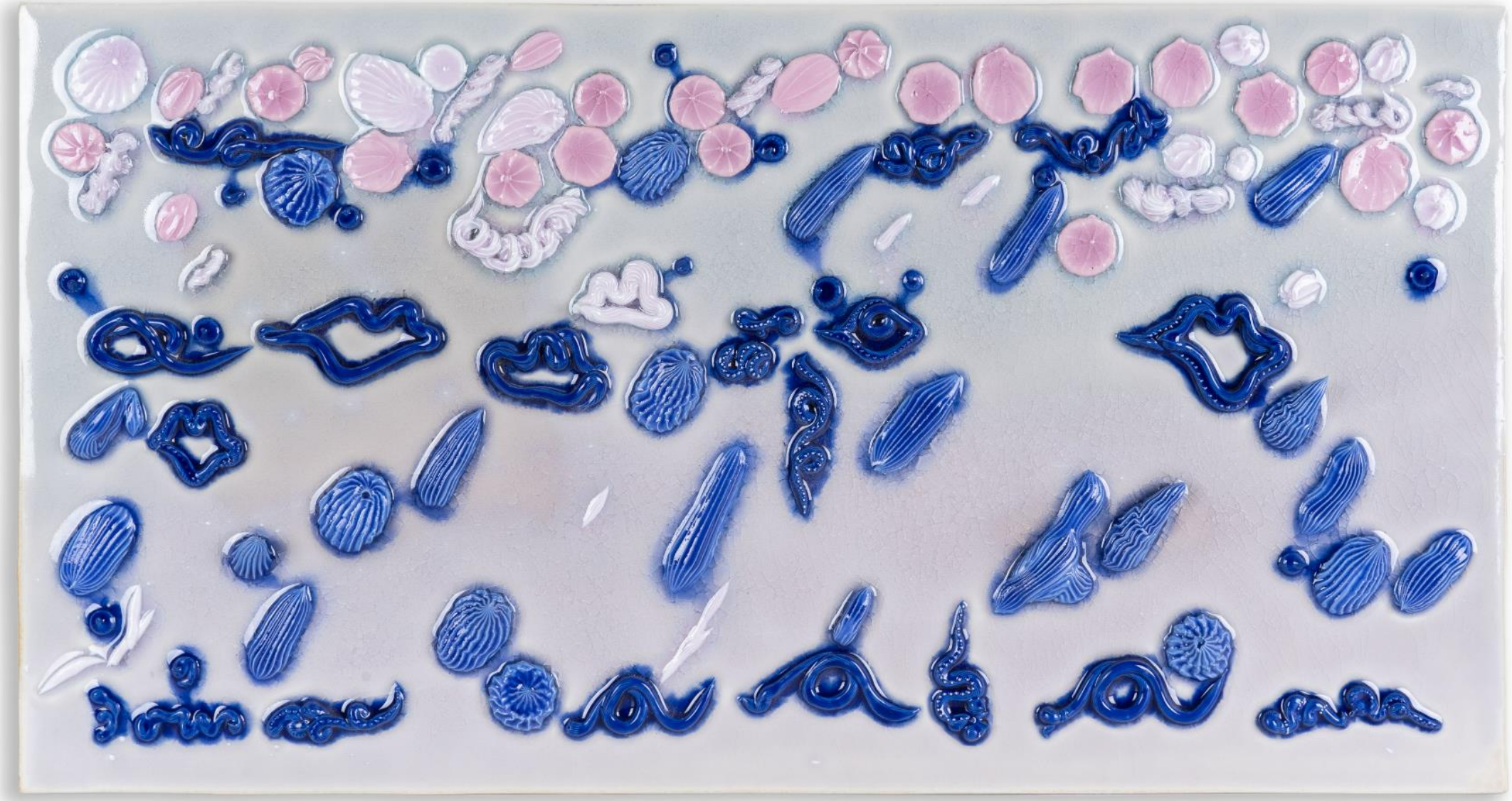
Them
2019 glazed porcelain 830 x 450 x28 mm



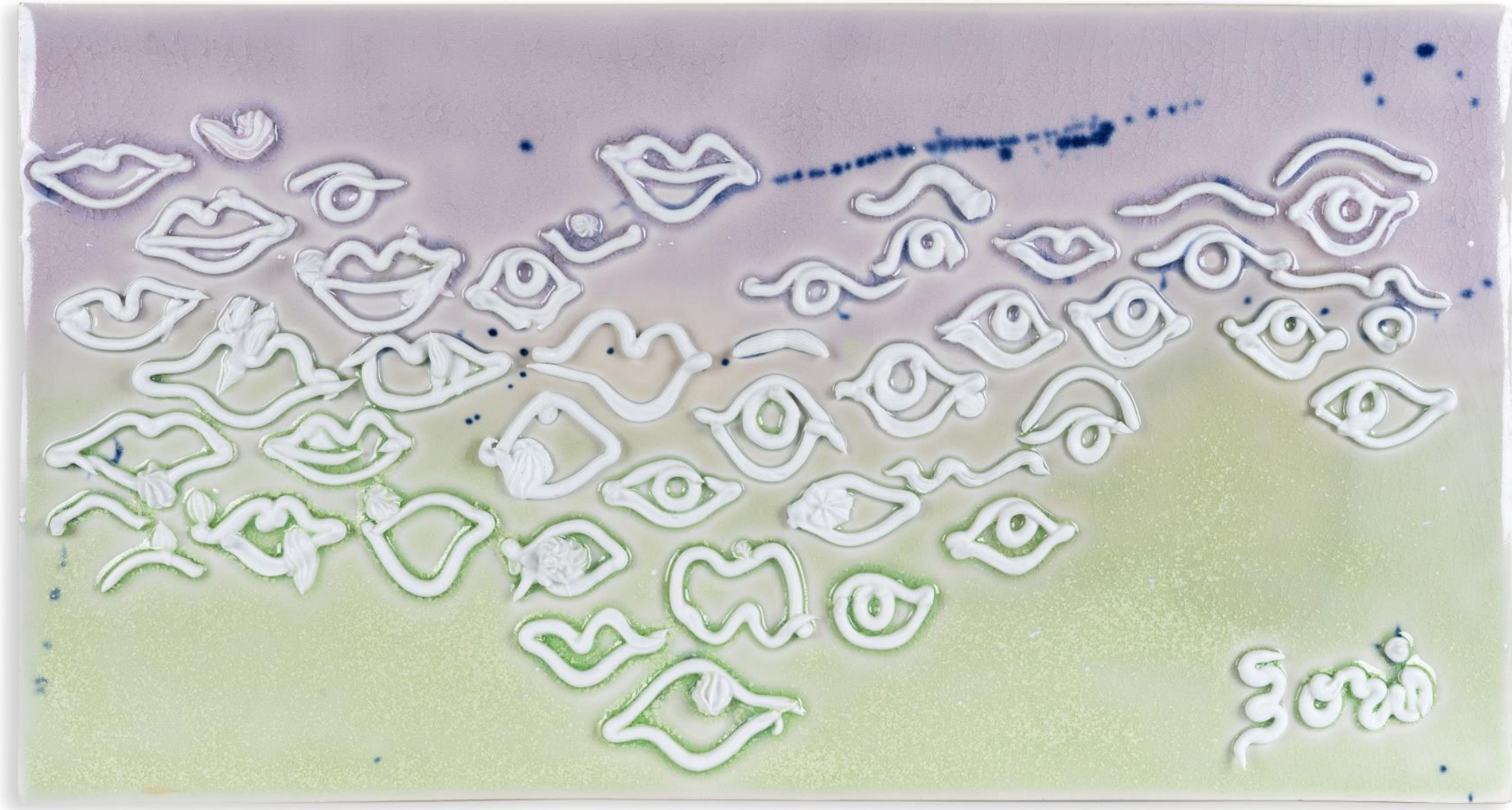
Signs
2019 glazed porcelain gold-luster 2019 450 x 830 x 28 mm



Stream
2019 glazed porcelain gold-luster 830 x 450 x 43 mm

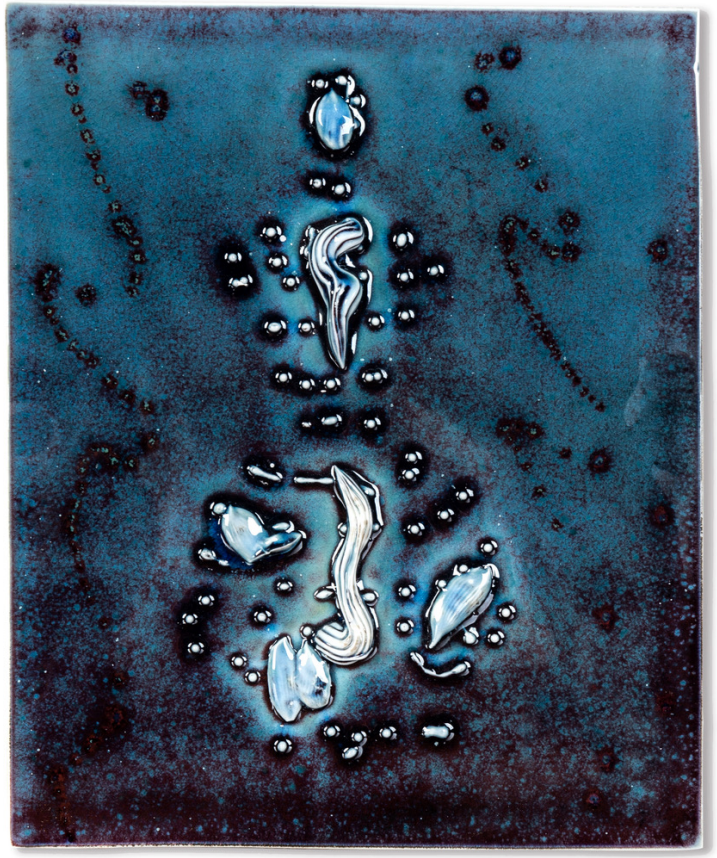


Purple rain
2019 glazed porcelain 830 x 450 x 40 mm



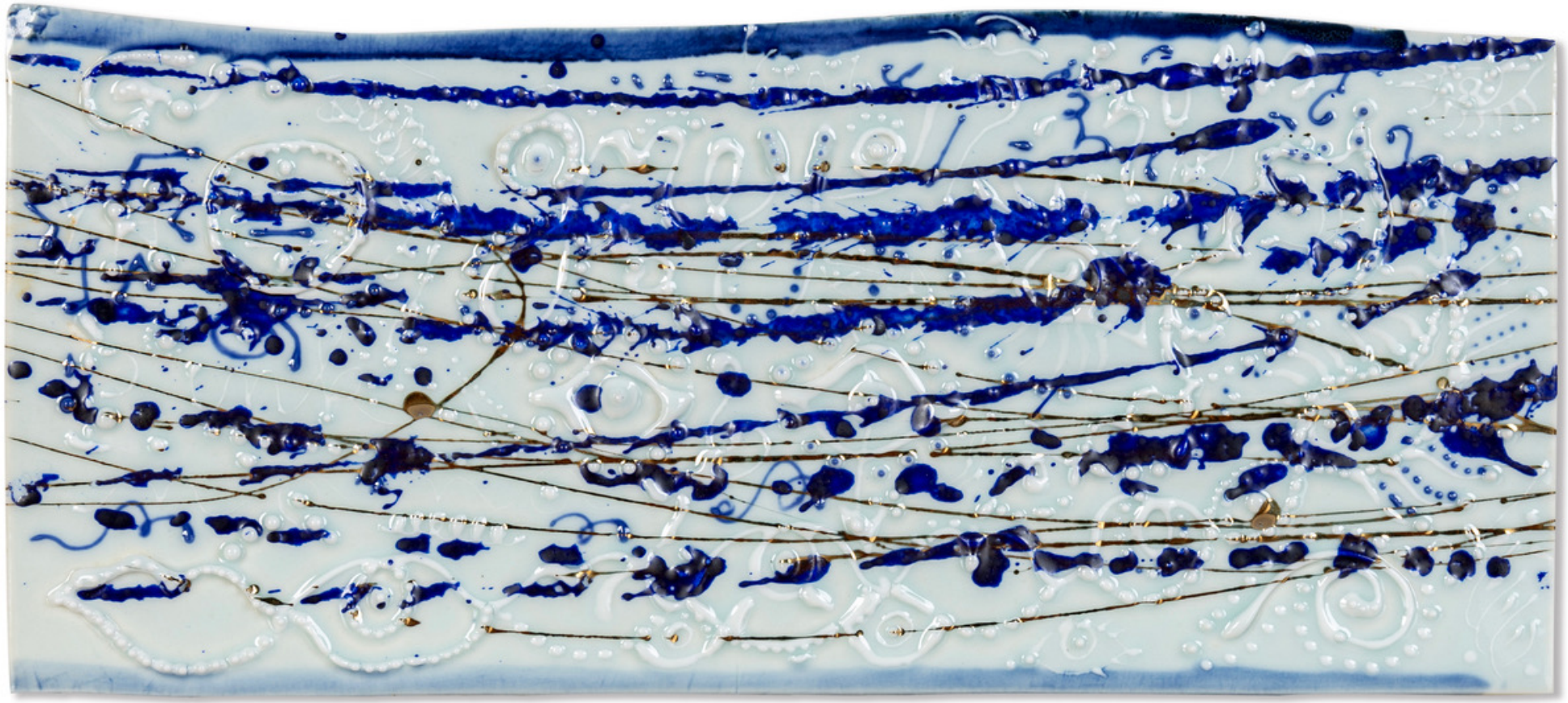
collective consciousness
2019 glazed porcelain 830 x 450 x 43 mm

Cathing up speed
2019 glazed porcelain gold-luster 830 x 450 x 43 mm



3 studies
2019 glazed porcelain 220 x 270 x 20 mm
2019 glazed porcelain 220 x 270 x 20 mm
2019 glazed porcelain 220 x 260 x 20 mm

study
2019 glazed porcelain gold-luster 320 x 145 x 10 mm



study
2019 glazed porcelain gold-luster 325 x 145 x 10 mm

Boris van Berkum

foto Koos Breukel

mondriaan fonds

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

After completing the gymnasium at the Montessori Lyceum Rotterdam, Boris van Berkum studies at the Academy of Visual Arts in Prague.
From 1992 to 1996 he lives in the "golden city", where he works as a political cartoonist for the English-language newspaper Prognosis.
Back in the Netherlands, Boris sets up showroom Mama, at the age of 27. He is director from 1997 to 2007. Under his leadership MAMA has grown into a dynamic and influential stage for contemporary visual culture. MAMA succeeds in reaching a young target group, which is partly why showroom MAMA is included in Rik van der Ploeg's (State-secretary of Culture) national arts plan.
In 2002 he founds Mothership, an agency for visual artists, with co-director Jeroen Everaerts. Boris co-owns Mothership until 2005.
During his work for showroom MAMA, van Berkum develops as a visual artist. He comes into contact with Frans Haks, the former director of the Groninger Museum, who becomes his mentor. The exhibition 'Neo' by Haks in the Centraal Museum Utrecht therefore has a major influence on van Berkum's work. Boris starts a study into the phenomenon of Neo-styles in art and applies the methods typical of Neo in his art-practice.
During his participation in artist in residencies he learns a number of traditional crafts and techniques. Casting bronze in Beeldenstorm Eindhoven; working in ceramics in the European Ceramic Work Centre.

Under the pseudonym DJ Chantelle, Boris founds the Artoonisten artists' collective in 2000 with artists Hans van Bentem, Luuk Bode and Pepijn van den Nieuwendijk. “The world is a Cartoon & everybody plays a Character” with this motto they create the public artwork “Ode to Marten Toonder” in 2002. The monument is a tribute by the city of Rotterdam to the Rotterdam-born craftsman and writer Marten Toonder. The striking monument made in bronze and granite stands prominently next to the city-centre’s Markthal and is the most photographed work of art in Rotterdam's public space.
In 2010, at the invitation of director Sjarel Ex, he exhibits the ‘Mega Renaissance’ installation in the Boijmans van Beuningen museum.

Boris meets Winti priestess Marian Markelo in 2011. She commissions him to design new art objects for her winti rituals in the Netherlands. To do so Boris develops a new technique: On the basis of 3d scans of West African art from the national museum collections of the Africa Museum Berg en Dal, the Wereldmuseum Rotterdam he designs this new Winti art. The development of this project is supported by the Mondriaan Fund, the CBK (Centre of fine arts) Rotterdam and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. Boris and Marian have labelled this collection of artworks as 'Neo Afro’.
They see it as an African renaissance within the winti-culture.
The most successful works are the Kabra ancestral dance-mask (2013) and the Mama Aisa sculpture (2020). The Kabra ancestor mask is a dance mask that symbolises the African ancestors, that were migrated involuntarily to Suriname. The Kabra mask was acquired by the Amsterdam Museum as "living heritage" in 2014. Since the mask is a museum-piece that performs annually at the national commemoration of slavery past and dances to the Kabra neti ancestor rituals.
The Mama Aisa sculpture is a representation of the primeval mother goddess and mother earth. A version of the Mama Aisa sculpture (polyester with gold-leaf) will be inaugurated in 2021 during a Winti Bal Masque in the Rijksmuseum.
In Rotterdam, the research has started whether the Mama Aisa sculpture (this time in bronze) can be added to the collection of art in public space.

Boris has been in China for periods since 2019. In Jingdezhen and Shanghai, he is working on an oeuvre of "porcelain paintings" in the coming years. The starting point for these paintings of porcelain and glaze always lies in one of the philosophies of the Far East, namely Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism. Because traveling to China is temporarily not possible due to the Corona pandemic, he shifts his work area to the Netherlands.
Boris has started a collaboration with manufacturer of Delft Blue ware Heinen Delfsblauw.
He will participate in the artist in residency program at the EKWC spring 2021.
The work of Boris van Berkum is acquired by the public collections of Museum Boijmans van Beuningen Rotterdam, the Groninger Museum, Amsterdam museum, Museum het Dolhuys Haarlem and the Suriname museum Paramaribo Suriname. In 2019 he received the Stipendium for Established Artists from the Mondriaan Fund.
Boris van Berkum lives and works in Rotterdam.

Boris van Berkum (Rotterdam 1968) lives and works in the Netherlands

Education

1992-1993 Academy Umeni Vitvarny (Academy for Fine Arts) Prague Czech Republic

1988-1989 Willem de Kooning Academy Rotterdam

1980-1998 Montessori Lyceum Rotterdam Gymnasium

Solo- exhibitions

2018 *AFRICA not African? drawings & silkscreens*

Upstair's at Erix Berlin, curator Eric D. Clark

2014 *Kabra mask* exhibition Amsterdam Museum curator Annemarie de Wildt

2014 *Mama Aisa* XXXL central library Rotterdam

2014 *Winti Bal Masque* Laurens kerk Rotterdam

2011 *Mega-renaissance* Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen curator Sjarel Ex

2010 *Boris van Berkum recent works* Witzenhausen gallery Amsterdam

Group-exhibitions

2021 *AIR in Southeast # 2020/2021*

2021 *Healing Power,* Tropen Museum Amsterdam curator Wouter Welling

2020 Permanent collection, Het Dolhuys museum van de geest

2019 *To Return* Opposite gallery Jingdezhen curators Liu Zongna & Song Tao (Beijing)

2019 *Healing power* Museum Volkenkunde Leiden curator Wouter Welling

2018 *Dutch circle of Sculptors 100 years,* Pulchri Den Haag curator Jeroen Damen

2017/2018 *Sticky Business* Stedelijk Museum Schiedam curator Marije Vogelzang

2017 *Making of Mama Aisa* DordtYart Dordtrecht Netherlands

2016 *Ritual and the Sacred* Route du Nord Rotterdam curator Hans van der Ham

2016 *Hollandaise* New Art Projects London curator Ken Pratt

2016 *Bal!* Royal Palace Soestdijk Soest Netherlands curator Anne van der Zwaag

2016 *Persian Poems* Seedz Rotterdam Vluchtelingenwerk Nedereland

2015 *Diversity and Inclusion: Challenging Implicit Bias* – University Leiden

2015 *Arte Concordia* – Sculpture exhibition Rotterdam curator Olpheart den Otter

2015 MOM contemporary masks Centrum Beeldende Kunst Zuid Oost Amsterdam

2014 *Goethe Dialegs* Goethe Institut Barcelona Spain curator Robert Punkenhofer

2014 *The Individual Is Lost* Zic Zerp Gallery Rotterdam curator Zic Zerp

2014 *Down to Earth* gallery Sanaa Utrecht

2013 *Catch my Drift* Zic Zerp gallery Rotterdam curator Zic Zerp

2013 *Slavery - contemporary arts included?* Galerie Sanaa Utrecht

2013 Digitale Kunstroof/ Digital Art Heist 3d-printing Set-up/ het gebouw Utrecht

2012/2013 *Abundantia,* Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam curator Peter van der Coelen

2012 *Raw Art Expo,* Raw Art Fair Rotterdam curator Bob Smit

2012 *The Kids Are Alright, 15 years showroom* MAMA, Kunsthal Rotterdam curator Gerben Willers

Performances

2021 Inauguration Mama Aisa sculpture Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

2021 Winti Bal Masque 2 Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

2021 Keti Koti viering Afrikamuseum Berg & Dal Netherlands

2019 - present June Memri Waka Amsterdam ism Amsterdam Museum (annual)

2013- present *performance Kabra ancestor dance-mask* National Commemoration of Slavery Oosterpark Amsterdam (annual)

2013- present *Kabra Mask-dance* at Kabra Netil Ancestor winti ritual Muiderkerk Amsterdam (annual)

2013-2017 *Kabra mask-dance* Keti Koti abolishment of slavery celebration June Afrika Museum Berg & Dal the Netherlands

2016 *Kabra mask 13* performances Wijksafari Bijlmer Amsterdamdirectotrs Noraly Beyer & Adelheid Roosen

2016 *Kabra mask-dance* New-year celebraction NiNsee Amsterdam NL

2015 *Grande Desert van Bosch tot Brueghel*, Museum Boijmans van Beuningen Rotterdam

2015 *Mask Dance Afrofuturism* Now – Worm Rotterdam NL

2015 *Kabra mask* 26 performances Wijksafari Bijlmer Amsterdamdirectotrs Noraly Beyer & Adelheid Roosen

2014 *Papa winti mask-dance* September 13th Witte de With art-festival Rotterdam

2014 *Kabra mask-dance* at Kabra Neti, Ancestor ritual, Sunclub Rotterdam NL

2014 5th April mask-dance Motel Mozaique festival Rotterdamse Schouwburg

2014 March 15th Winti Bal Masque Laurenskerk Rotterdam

Public collections

Amsterdam Museum, Museum Boijmans van Beuningen Rotterdam,

Groninger Museum, Museum Het Dolhuys Haarlem, Kunstuitleen Rotterdam,

Dutch Ministry of Justice, Dutch Ministry of Foreign affairs, Suriname Museum Paramaribo

Public Art

2002 - present Ode aan Marten Toonder Sculpture Binnenrotte City center Rotterdam commission City of Rotterdam

2021 Mama Aisa Bronze scupture, client City of Rotterdam

Cultural management

2014- present creative director Winti Bal Masque

2013- present founder & director ABAN foundation

2000-2005 owner partnership Mothership

1997-2007 founder & director MAMA showroom for Media and Moving Art Rotterdam

Artist in residencies

2019/2020 BijlmAIR Amsterdam Zuid-oost (research)

2019 Na artist in residency Jingdezhen China (porcelain)

2016 Paradise Tiles Isfahan Iran (mosaic, tiles & calligraphy)

2015 Pottery Workshop Jingdezhen China (porcelain)

2014 EKWC European Ceramic Work Center, Den Bosch (ceramics)

2010 EKWC European Ceramic Work Center, Den Bosch (ceramics)

2007 Beeldenstorm Eindhoven (bronze)

Grands

2019- 2023 Stipendium for Established Artists Mondriaan fund

2019 Project loan Fonds Kwadraat

2016 Project grand Art of Impact (Ministery Education Culture & Science)

2016 Project grand Mondriaan fund

2016 Project grand Research and Development CBK Centre For Fine Arts Rotterdam

2015 Project grand artist in residency Iran Mondriaan fund

2014 Project grand project grand Mondriaan fund

2013 Project grand Fonds 21

2013 Project grand development CBK Rotterdam

2013 Project grand Mondriaanfonds

Catalogues and publications

2021 *Healing power* exhibition catalogue Museum van Wereldculturen author Wouter Welling, publisher Cunera

2019 *My Afternoon with an Alien Folk Artist* essay by Darius James US

2017 *Neo Afro in Afrofuturism,* essay by Aminata Cairo & Jeroen Deckers published in *Punt Komma*.

2017 NTR Reportage National commemoration abolishment of Slavery (National Dutch broadcast)

2016 *Afrikaanse renaissance* exhibition-catalogue Arika 010 Wereldmuseum author dr. Paul Faber

2016 *Paleis Soestdijk door de ogen van kunstenaars* review Bal! Volkskrant author Anne v Leeuwen

2015 *Mask-dancing in contemporary Winti ritual* Material Religion Journal author dr. Markus Balkenhol Universiteit Utrecht

2015 *Negotiations around the Kabra mask* Material Religion Journal author Annemarie de Wildt Conservator Amsterdam Museum

2015 *Winti Kabra and the Limbo imagination* Material Religion Journal author Wayne Modest head Research Center of Material Culture Museum van Wereldculturen Leiden & professor Faculty of Humanities Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)

2015 *'The Dancing Kabra Mask'* Africanah.org author Annemarie the Wildt

2013 Report national television NTR National commemoration abolishment of Slavery

2013 *Sweet Sixteen 16 years showroom MAMA,* Showroom MAMA Rotterdam

2012 *City Collection catalogue*, Musuem Boijmans van Beuningen Rotterdam

2012 *Top 100 Dutch Artists,* Elsevier magazine

2011 *Moving Statues* Arttube Boijmans TV, video-interview with artist Boris van Berkum

2011 *Mega Renaissance* catalogue Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen

2011 Review *Mega Renaissance* Museum Boijmans Ceramics & perception magazine US

Arttalks & Lectures

2019 Ode aan Marten Toonder Lecture Rotary Club Rotterdam

2017 *The Making of Mama Aisa* Dortyart Dordrecht

2017 Dr Paul Faber curator Afrika010 Wereldmuseum.

2017 BKAdemie Rotterdam

2016 WdKA art academy Rotterdam

2015 Pecha Kucha Arminius Rotterdam

2014 Amsterdam Museum Amsterdam

www.borisvanberkum.com