

# GALERIE RAUM MIT LICHT



Image: Kunstdokumentation

**Onka Allmayer-Beck** (\* Vienna in 1979), attended Central St. Martins in London from 2001 to 2004, studied fashion design there and became soon successful working for prestigious design studios in Milan. Constrained in her creative development, she decided to return to Vienna in 2016 and bought a kiln. She gained her first experience working for a ceramist in a traditional family studio. However, the decisive impulse for the challenging building technique, to which she has remained faithful to this day, was given to her during a study visit to Russia, north of Moscow.

The focus of her ceramic design is on the idea of vessels in the broadest sense, vessels that are an integral part of everyday life without prior determination, waiting to be used in a favourable way. They all have a foot zone and a body zone and seem to be mobile and at the same time resilient in their own way. Soon you get the impression that they are lovable companions. Their physiognomies, which have escaped the course of progressive evolution, faithfully reflect the conditions under which they were created: drying processes play a decisive role, as does the temperature of the firing and, last but not least, the dimensions of the kiln. To this end, the artist likes to experiment with haptic sensations on the surfaces, using glossy glazes, mixing, and scattering, or roughening. But it is only when the pottery has cooled down completely that the final shape is determined. “In reality, you are subordinate to the material,” says Onka Allmayer-Beck. She rejects a test firing.

Selected exhibitions:

In Milan ( Triennale di Milano ), Chiasso ( MAX museo), Zagreb (HDLU), Moscow ( Austrian Forum), Krasnoyarsk (Biennale 2017), London (Collect 2020), Vienna ( Design Week 2020), Schloss Hollenegg for Design (Earth and Fire 2021), Superhouse Vitrine, NY (Super Group 2 2021).