

50 GOLBORNE

King Houndekpinkou at: Collect 2021, London, UK

50 Golborne is delighted to introduce, for the first time in the United Kingdom, the work of French Beninese ceramicist King Houndekpinkou at the occasion of the gallery's participation in Collect 2021.

Six new vessels will be presented that reflect Houndekpinkou's interest in Beninese ritual objects, Shinto, and contemporary Japanese visual culture. The artworks gravitate around the idea of the vessel as a sculptural base reflecting ideas on the relationship between the visceral and the sacred.

Each piece begins at the potter's wheel where Houndekpinkou throws cups, bottles, plates, bowls, and vases. These component parts are then conjoined into non-functional totemic vessels that are richly hued and have an intricate texture. Some look bubbly as if in fusion, crusty and at the same time; others present spiky protrusions. Glazes or paints, of the colours that animals use to attract mates or repel predators (cobalt, pink, acid greens) melt in rich overflows while in others collaged parts in silver and gold give punctuation. Even the medium is a melange: Houndekpinkou blends commercial clay bodies with earth from Japan and from places he has visited in Africa.

Reflecting on the African Diaspora of his generation-who have both the challenge and the opportunity to slide from one culture border to the other,

- Houndekpinkou introduces unexpected convergences of influences in the ceramic practice.

About the artist:

Born in 1987, King Houndekpinkou began his ceramic practice ten years ago. He is based in Paris region (France) and is a member of the International Academy of Ceramicists. He founded and developed Terres Jumelles, a program that consists in fostering a cross-cultural dialogue between various pottery sites of Benin and Japan through the local practices of ceramics/pottery in each country. His work has been exhibited in Japan, China, France and the US.