

**CATEGORY: TABLEWARE**  
**WINNER: ASTRID DAHL**

**Why we think she's a winner** We didn't think Astrid could top her EDIDA win last year, but we were wrong! Her latest ceramic sculpture is inspired – like her other work – by Karl Blossfeldt's photography. This time she has peered intently at close-ups of dried seedpods and rendered their delicate, complex arrangements in her signature white earthenware. We love her colourless genre for the way the unwavering whiteness better shows off the complicated structures and lines she creates. The new piece is all concentric whorls that radiate out from a central point. She has set, and remarkably so, the essence of a plant in the solid permanence of clay. At the same time she successfully balances the technical aspects of the ceramic medium, such as weight and fragility, with her own aesthetic concerns.

**What's next?** Part of the Midlands Meander, Astrid plans to continue working from her home studio in Nottingham Road. Besides dabbling in stoneware, earthenware's more durable, nonporous cousin, she has also been approached to collaborate with other visual artists and to export to the United States. The plant world 'isn't boring for me yet,' she says. 'I love what I do, and the possibilities are endless...'

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