

Astrid Dahl



My love of working with clay and creating forms began when I met my ceramic lecturer, Hendrik Stroebel, at Technikon Natal in 1995.

Hennie was and is a great inspiration to his students. His love of form and design have always inspired me and continues to do so. He gave us the opportunity and encouragement to explore and create using clay as a language. I recall one particular occasion, when a group of African women came and taught us the traditional method of coiling clay. It was then that I truly found my vocabulary.

In 1999, I moved to Nottingham Road in the Midlands with two other friends to take up work in a bronze-casting foundry. There I crossed paths with design guru Neville Trickett who introduced me to the botanical photography of

Karl Blossfeldt (1865-1932). This in turn triggered the start of an evolving journey with clay.

Blossfeldt's monotone prints determined that I would work with white clay as it creates a pure canvas for light and dark to 'shape' the piece.

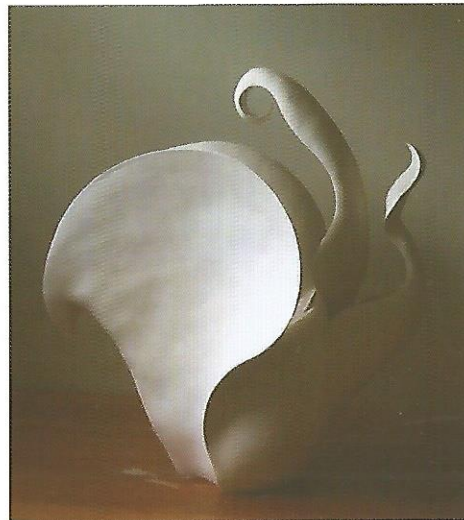
This approach also captures the presence of the flora which inspired it. While I start with a drawing, the piece transforms in the making process. Clay, to a very large degree has a life of its own.

I like Rebecca Mtibe's pieces as she is presenting a concept of something within the vessel. This is exciting as the 'inside' is as of much interest as the outside. In my work, the strategic use of negative as well as positive space is integral to the success of the piece.

RECENT WORK



Dahl, Astrid
Winter Aconite (1/10) 2011
fired earthenware, unglazed, sealed
73 x 50 x 33 cm



Dahl, Astrid
Leaf Bud 2 (1/10) 2011
fired earthenware, unglazed, sealed
56 x 35 x 35 cm



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Caladenia Dilatata (1/1) 2012
fired earthenware, unglazed, sealed
69 x 44 x 59 cm