

# Strange but not a stranger

Inger Sif Heeschen

13.01.23 - 04.02

Inger Sif Heeschen's exhibition *Strange but not a stranger* presents three different series of ceramic works that reinterpret pop cultural phenomena and everyday functional design.

The tool series Torx2000 Basic Bits consists of ceramic vases that are shaped after bits for drills and screwdrivers. The familiar objects of use are enlarged and cast in hand-built molds. Inger Sif Heeschen's work concerns the boundary between industrial function and design. Where the functional is often perceived as rational and as something created exclusively for use, it is always also the design and thus an aesthetic idiom. Torx2000 Basic Bits highlight the aesthetic qualities associated with screw bits and transform the objects into sculptural vases.

The exhibition title *Strange but not a stranger* describes Inger Sif Heeschen's artistic method. In a series of reliefs, she has worked with snack culture, where the special Dutch deep-fried snack, the croquette, has inspired her. Here are elongated ceramic cylinders wrapped in ornaments. The ornaments are casts of door mats, and again, the forms and expressions of the found, functional objects are examined, just as the cultural, national, and personal stories about food are interpreted. Inger Sif Heeschen's works combine the alien with the accessible and recognizable. The song Burning Down the House by Talking Heads has been her pop cultural starting point for creating the series of large, orange, and dark red flaming sculptures. There is a duality in the works. They are at once sculptures of fire and fired ceramic works, and they thus point back to the way they were created.

With an aestheticizing and transforming approach, Inger Sif Heeschen's works branch out into a myriad of references, all of which in their own way point to the collective narratives we create on the basis of the objects we surround ourselves with, and the ways in which we understand and map our realities and stories.

Inger Sif Heeschen graduated from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam (BFA 2016), the San Francisco Art Institute (2014) and the Royal College of Art, London (MA 2022). Inger Sif Heeschen has, among other things, exhibited his works at the Spring Exhibition, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, pro.tempore. at Thorvaldsens Museum, the Artists' Autumn Exhibition, Den Frie and the exhibition venue Delfi in Malmö.