

PRESS RELEASE

**MILAN KUNC**

**"New Sculptures"**

AUGUST 30 – NOVEMBER 30, 2012

Galerie Andrea Caratsch will be presenting new ceramic sculptures by Milan Kunc from August 30 until November 30. This is the artist's second solo exhibition in Switzerland, and it is dedicated to his latest works created during his stay at the European Centre for Ceramics in S'Hertogenbosch (Netherlands) in the autumn of 2010.

Milan Kunc, born in Prague in 1944, studied at the Art Academy there from 1964 until 1967. After the violent end of the Prague Spring, he emigrated to Düsseldorf in the Federal Republic of Germany, continuing his studies under the supervision of Joseph Beuys and Gerhard Richter. He co-founded the group "Normal" in 1979, to which Peter Angermann and Jan Knap also belonged. Since the 1980s, his work has been described - amongst other things - as "international folklore", which may be understood as an art generally comprehensible for the people. But this description falls short of the complexity of Kunc's work. Without doubt the common thread throughout his work is the fabulous, indeed dreamlike quality of his visions. This exhibition once again provides ample evidence of this.

Primarily active as a painter and draughtsman, Milan Kunc's fascination with the medium of ceramics began during the late 1970s, when he created a series of 100 shoe sculptures. But the three stays in S'Hertogenbosch were what enabled the artist to completely exploit the possibilities of this millennium-old technique. It is precisely this archaic quality, the tactility of the glazed ceramics that lend these works a very special appeal.

## GALERIE ANDREA CARATSCH

The themes of Kunc's pictorial and formal language remain true to themselves, but his visions gain in weightiness, seeming like meteors arriving on our Earth from a distant planet. As the artist himself comments: "They should look extraterrestrial and bear witness to what we sense halfway. They are relicts of a secret message coming from Elsewhere that must first be deciphered!...(…) They are not averse to giving a philosophical meaning to this searching age."

Like late baroque *Vanitas* decorations, Meissen trysts or miniature examples of illusionistic architecture, these arrangements appear cheerful and carefree at first glance; and yet, the dissonance is obvious. Beyond the appearance lies a profound, nostalgic-melancholy critique of today's *Zeitgeist*, connected with a defiant rebellion against the system and the standards of the customary art establishment.

The gallery is open Monday to Friday from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM.