

MAREK CECUŁA

WSPÓŁCZESNA PORCELANA

CONTEMPORARY PORCELAIN

1970-2021 ART & DESIGN



This exhibition presents the achievements of over fifty years of creative work in the development of applied and decorative porcelain.

The theme of this exhibition is to show the overlap of art and design in the ceramic medium.

The exhibition is divided into 4 main sections:

1. Industry
2. Studio
3. Art & Design
4. Industrial Interpretations

MAREK CECUŁA MODUS DESIGN

In the 1970s, Marek Cecula established his ceramic studio in New York's Soho neighbourhood. At the time, the studio produced unique porcelain objects, sculptural forms, and artistic projects.

After several years of individual practice, the studio evolved into a design/production studio under the brand name Modus Design. The products became more functional with attention to new possibilities for table settings and innovative accessories.

In 2001 the company moved to Poland and opened a small production studio in Kielce, Poland.

In 2013, at the invitation of the Polish Porcelain Manufactory Ćmielów and Chodzież, Marek Cecula created a design studio for contemporary lines of products and became the artistic director of a new brand Ćmielów Design Studio.



MAREK CECUŁA

Marek Cecuła, artist, designer, former dean of the ceramics department at Parsons School of Design in New York. Visiting Professor at Royal College of Art London, and National College of Art and Design, Bergen Norway.

As an artist working in ceramics for many years, he has achieved a leading position and recognition in the field. His work has been included in prestigious museum collections such as the Victoria & Albert Museum London, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Museum of Arts and Design New York, Le Musée Royal de Mariemont Belgium.

Marek Cecuła has also curated numerous exhibitions on the subject of the transfer between design and art, and in exhibitions such as Object Factory at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, the Gardiner Museum in Toronto, and the Lodz Design Festival he has shown the latest international trends in applied and artistic ceramics.

He is the founder of Modus Design, a company based in New York since 1976. Today, Modus Design has a design office in Kielce, Poland, where it conducts extensive ceramic product development.

Marek Cecuła is the initiator and founder of Design Centrum Kielce, which he ran until 2012. In 2013, Polskie Fabryki Porcelany Ćmielów and Chodzież invited him to establish an innovative design studio Cmielow Design Studio where he is currently the artistic director.

INDUSTRY

Designing, as related to the ceramics industry (especially porcelain), requires specific solutions for the form and production processes that strongly affect the final appearance and aesthetic of products. Shape, structure, and scale possess consistent definitions that, together with mechanical and production limitations, require the designer to come up with creative compromises to obtain a successful and aesthetic product.

As a result of the cooperation between the designer and the industrial manufacturer, the patterns reveal the designer's flexibility, adapted to the requirements and industrial standard. These, in turn, lead to the production of an economical product and distribution at affordable prices. Industrially produced functional and decorative porcelain date back to the 18th century. The first porcelain manufacture marked the beginning of the industrial revolution.

Currently, porcelain tableware is mass-produced in almost all developed countries of the world.





“NEW ATELIER”

Ćmielów Design Studio
Design: Marek Cecuła, 2013
Porcelain and ceramic decals

New Atelier collection is the first product signed by Ćmielów Design Studio brand.

It is an example of contemporary ceramic design, where objects are an expression of reductive shape and straight lines of forms that bind the whole set in a harmonious arrangement of colors and forms.

Specially designed decoration in five colors opens the way to interactive play in combining the various elements in a personal graphic arrangement. New Atelier receive several prestiges awards and it is on preeminent display in major Polish museums and institutions.



ESPRESSO CUP "SYSTEM"

Ćmielów Design Studio
Design: Marek Cecuła, 2017
White and coloured porcelain

This espresso cup is design to improve stability between two porcelain forms. Cup and saucer, two interrelated objects with new solution to improve functionality and handling of the cup of coffee. Design offers more mobile usage of the set by securing its stability with row of liner surface on the cup and on the saucer.

"SYSTEM"

Ćmielów Design Studio
Design: Marek Cecuła, 2017
White and black porcelain,

The coffee set System is a new set of table porcelain, representing contemporary design that expresses the aesthetics of the 21st century. The "System" set created in the new technological era. Made by 3D modeling it carries within itself the reflection of this process and representations of our time.



“TIN TIN”

Ćmielów Design Studio
Design: Marek Cecuła, 2020
Porcelain, ceramic decals

Breakfast set in two colors inspired
by the tinware from the 60s.



COLLECTION VICTORIA

Design: Marek Cecuła, 1990
Porcelain, ceramic decals and wire
Produce by Ćmielow Porcelain



STUDIO

The Ćmielów Design Studio operates autonomously in a porcelain factory and utilizes mass production to produce short-runs of products that carry industrial quality with the original author's impression.

When making short series of porcelain, the path to diversity opens up, allowing for quick changes in the molding and decoration process without a large investment outlay.

The Ćmielów Design Studio run by Modus Design is the first studio of this type in Poland - established at the meeting point of industry, design, and art. Objects produced in this environment retain their aesthetic values and the originality of manual work. The capability of factory production allows objects to reach a wider audience, proposing new forms and interactive sets, which not only accompany everyday life but also provoke the recipient to relate to the object and its creative use.

The studio also contributes to the experimental development and adaptation of new technologies for innovative use in studio and industrial production.

CDS hosts from its beginning international educational activities such as residencies and internships.

The main goal is to inject the modern spirit in this noble material and continue the exquisite craftsmanship of porcelain art and design.

HAND & BOWL

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2003
Color and white porcelain
A renewed product by Modus Design.

This design conveying maximum contact with a utilitarian porcelain object.
The form of the bowl fits tightly to the hand and gives the feeling of direct contact with the vessel. The bowl has double walls and does not transfer heat during its use. This original design is an alternative way to eat off the table.



COLLECTION CRAFT

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2017
Color porcelain

Subtlety is the theme of the new collection "CRAFT" where a touch of the hand merges with ergonomics of the forms. Despite the wave of objects that originate in 3D printers, the Craft collection is a return to craftsmanship, where subtlety, ergonomics, and tactility are hand-worked into models, freezing into a porcelain object. Emotions, sensitivity, and sensuality are transferred directly to the form, which then carries these qualities into the hands of the user.



RANDOM

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2004
Porcelain, ceramic decals

Random is a porcelain mug that carries its own three-digit number instead of a decoration, different on each mug.

This condition makes the mug an original even though it is mass produced.

The numbers are applied randomly.





BENT COLLECTION

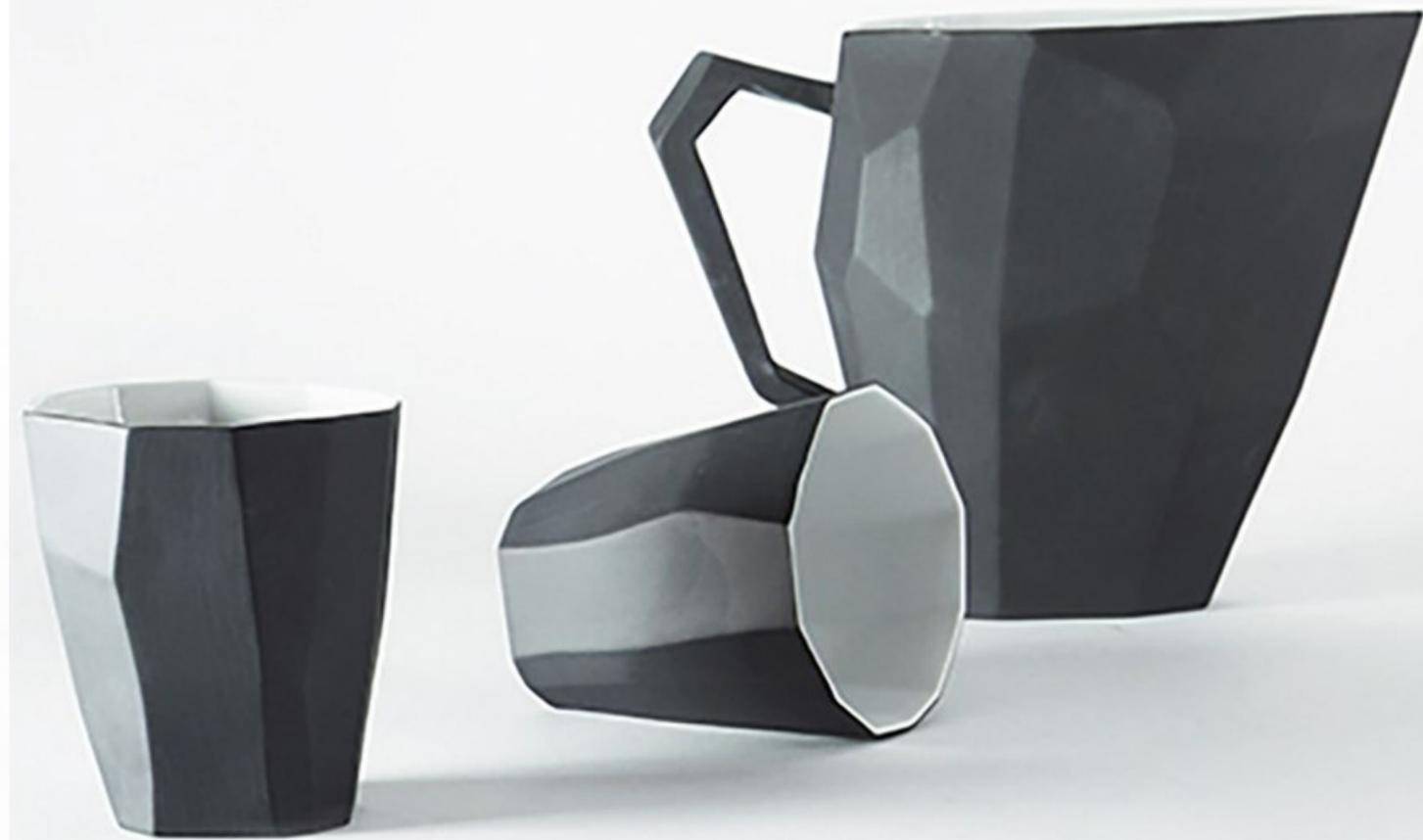
Design: Marek Cecuła, 2013
Porcelain

The Bent Collection has a long history, starting in New York studio in the nineteen-nineties. It was worked on while researching how to portray the non-industrial character of porcelain objects and change their classical affiliation. The collection is composed of many objects such as vases, mugs, tea sets, and trays which are still in production today.



LIMBO COLLECTION TEAPOTS

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2019
Color porcelain



SUSHI SET “ZEN”

SUSHI DUET, SUSHI SOLO

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2019
Color porcelain

Zen collection is a response to the popularity of Japanese cuisine and its position in the Western culture. Forms in this collection are full of Japanese aesthetics, adapted to the usable ware of porcelain providing the background to the culinary composition in the style of Sushi.



COLECTION MARILYN, CUPS

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2020
Porcelain decorated





NATURA

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2004
Porcelain and wood

This collection is inspired by nature as the best designed work.

Some of the objects are direct reflections of the elements chosen from nature, transformed through ceramic process into the usable forms.



XL CUP AND SAUCER

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2018
Color porcelain



NECTAR MUG

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2018
Color porcelain



TURNED COLLECTION

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2019
Color porcelain

The contrast of form and feeling is the central message of a collection composed of two different production sources. A selection of the objects originates in a handmade process, while others are produced by the factory. The combination of these two values in material, texture, and surface finish provides new aesthetic principles that break the conventions of typical table porcelain.

TRURKA

Design: Marek Cecuła, 1999
Porcelain, silicon



VASES “BERTA” AND “TOMEK”

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2020
Color porcelain



LIQUID FORMS

Design: Marek Cecuła, 1995
Porcelain



KUMKUM

Design: Marek Cecuła, 1987
Porcelain, ceramic decals and wire





KULFON (CONTAINER FOR O&V)

Design: Marek Cecuła, 1987
Porcelain, silicon

COMPUTER SAFE

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2020
Porcelain, silicon

This product is an improvement of safety and stability of the coffee mug next to the computer on your working table.
The silicon o-ring at the base of the mug creates a soft and stable contact between porcelain and the table surface.





POUR GOLD

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2000
Porcelain and gold



EXTREME, TABLE ACCESSORY

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2015
Porcelain, silicon



CREAMER & SUGAR

Design: Marek Cecuła, 1995
Porcelain



“SNOPEK”

Design: Marek Cecuła, 1999
Porcelain, silicon

ZZ CONT. FOR S&P

Design: Marek Cecuła, 1999
Porcelain, silicon





ART & DESIGN

In my creative process, the coexistence of art and design has always played a key role. In the studio, development work and experimental activities bring new ideas in the area of formal design. However, there often is room for penetration towards art.

Thus, forms devoid of typical utility rules become neutral objects and are to provide only visual satisfaction.

Ceramics, and especially traditional porcelain, carries a rich history of such objects that have enriched our culture over the years with a combination of utility and beauty.



“CHINITA”

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2016
Porcelain, ceramic decals, gold
69 x 20 cm



ERGO

Project: Marek Cecuła, 2013
Porcelain, ceramic decals

Decorative and utilitarian set



UBU

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2016
Porcelain, ceramic decals



DOMUS

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2005
Porcelain, ceramic decals



BAUHAUS 100

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2019

Porcelain, ceramic decals

28 x 28 x 15 cm

Limited addition of 50

The set "Bauhaus 100" was created to commemorate the centenary anniversary of Bauhaus school 1919-2019, which still has a great influence on contemporary aesthetics, especially architecture and design.

In my ceramic works, the inspiration and philosophy of the Bauhaus was a frequent factor in various expressions and forms of the ceramic product. However, the 100 years of Bauhaus gave rise to a special project that introduced my contributions to the anniversaries so important to our culture.



FORM AND COLOR

"Form and Color" is the latest collection of table porcelain in the Modus Design studio. Thanks to its strong aesthetic qualities, it is a functional, porcelain artwork. Forms and decorations permeate to form an integral composition. They are divided by strong planes of color, referring to Dutch constructivism and Piet Mondrian's work. The porcelain set is interactive and thanks to the playfully moving individual elements, its visual layout changes into a new, three-dimensional image.

The "Form and Color" collection is available in a limited numbers in particular decoration.

FORM & COLOR I

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2019
Porcelain, ceramic decals

Decorative and utilitarian set



QUBUS I

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2018
Porcelain, ceramic decals

Decorative and utilitarian set





FORM & COLOR 2

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2020
Porcelain, ceramic decals

Decorative and utilitarian set

FORM & COLOR 3

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2020
Porcelain, ceramic decals

Decorative and utilitarian set





FORM & COLOR 4

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2020
Porcelain, ceramic decals

Decorative and utilitarian set



FORM & COLOR 6

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2020
Porcelain, ceramic decals

Decorative and utilitarian set



FORM & COLOR 7

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2020
Porcelain, ceramic decals

Decorative and utilitarian set



FORM & COLOR 8

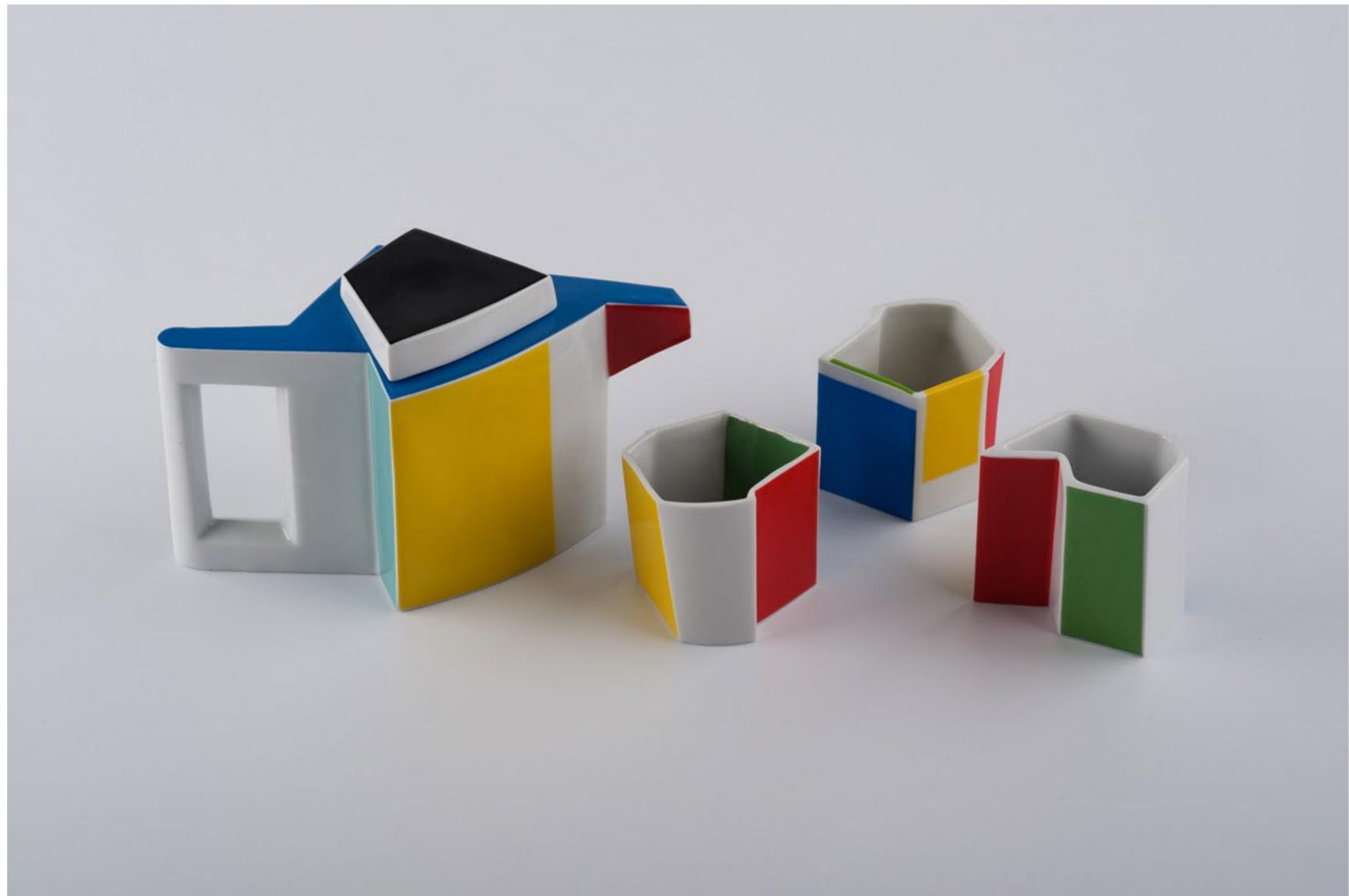
Design: Marek Cecuła, 2021
Porcelain, ceramic decals

Decorative and utilitarian set

QUBUS II

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2018
Porcelain, ceramic decals

Decorative and utilitarian set





Z I G Z A G

Design: Marek Cecuła, 1998
Porcelain, decal, wood

Extreme teapot where spout and handle make the most of the form and linear decor stretches the limits of conventional tea serving. Strongly decorative and non functional design with links to art deco and modernistic architecture become mini sculpture in fine porcelain. The sets are limited in production. Each form receives a different decoration, which makes each of them unique.



CORUNDUM COLLECTION

Design: Marek Cecuła, 1999
Corund

Due to corundum's density and hardness, it is commonly used in the industrial sector for machine parts and as abrasive powders.

Corundum can be fired at higher temperatures than porcelain, reaching 1.850C or 3.362F making it doubly durable while retaining its delicate vitreous transparency and tactile density.

Corundum is the crystalline form of aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3) and one of the rock-forming minerals. Corundum is naturally clear, but when impurities are added, one can obtain variation of brilliant colors.

Domestic objects made in Corundum expand our material vocabulary and offer us unique intercourse in the daily ceremonies of delight.





INDUSTRIAL INTERPRETATIONS

Daily encounters with a factory full of mass productions, where series of identically formed objects fill the factory carts, awaken a desire to defy such reproduction and make something unique and individual. In my work with mass production, I have addressed this issue in several ways, interpreting it in different ways. I have produced new and unique results using specific processes.

Designing in a factory with a wide variety of products gives designers unlimited possibilities to create new collections from the existing range.

This activity has formed the distinct character of the works that collectively make up the Industrial Interpretations group.

GLORJA DOTS

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2016
Porcelain





BOLERO GOLD

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2016
Industrial porcelain, modified



WHITE MUTANT

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2017
Industrial porcelain, modified



BEAUTY OF IMPERFECTION

Design: Marek Cecuła, 2007
Industrial porcelain, modified



IN DUST REAL

Collection "In Dust Real"
Design: Marek Cecuła, 2004
Industrial porcelain, wood fire

The project In dust real is a creative collision between Art, Craft and Design aiming to inject randomness into the standard manufacture production.

Selected forms from Royal Copenhagen and other porcelain manufactures were "burned again" in high temperature in traditional anagama wood fire kilns to achieve totally opposite condition from conventional industrial standards.

