

That is so Awkward: Soloudstilling af Niels Pugholm (DK)

Opening Friday June 10th 2022, kl. 17-20.

Exhibition period: Juni 10 - August 6, Gas 9 Gallery, Gasværksvej 9, 1656, KBH V

Øhnm, Whoopsy, Whatever, and That is So Awkward are some of the everyday expressions that Niels Pugholm (b. 1983) adds to the history of art and under the glaze of his new works displayed in the exhibition *That is so Awkward* at Gas 9 Gallery. Through colorful vessels created with historical artistic and ceramic methodologies, Pugholm examines archeology and historiography and questions how we create meaning and identities through objects and words. He is especially interested in the unwanted non-academic words, slang, and expressions. The so-called in-between words that take up space and often are pure nonsense - but which also create culture and the voice of generations.

Through colorful slipware and abstract collages, Pugholm draws on the Avant-Garde, early American advertising slogans, and popular culture's depiction of subcultures. Eclectically he samples artistic methods and texts across time and place for example terra sigillata, a fine ancient form of slipware used by the ancient pharaohs until the fall of the Roman Empire. For Pugholm, there is a kinship between the body and vessel both in the creation process and with the engraving of words which adds life and personality to the vessels. For example, who uses the term "Super Duper" or "OMG"? Pugholm himself often uses the term "That's Totally Alright", but when adding this statement to the vessels he spelled it wrong why the jar now states "That's Totally Allright". A real Niels Pugholm whoopsy.

In the exhibition *That is So Awkward*, Pugholm eclectically samples artistic practices and texts across time and space. The vessels are ceramics shaped by Pugholm's own hands, painted with contemporary statements, and an underglaze, by way of the fine ancient form of coating terra sigillata used by the ancient pharaohs until the fall of the Roman Empire. The vessels are burned at 950 degrees and glazed with transparent overglaze. Out of the oven comes cylindrical testimonies with gibberish and slang creating new unknown opinions and stories. These forms of communication also deserve a place in one of art history's oldest forms - the vessel - which has always acted as a platform for the selected most important narratives, historical characters, and histories.

Niels Pugholm (b. 1983) graduated from the Funen Art Academy in 2013, and has since exhibited nationally and internationally at GL STRAND, Viborg Kunsthø, C4 projects, and Schimmel Projects, Dresden. In 2021, he created the public art sculpture *Himlen over Skærbæk* for Skærbæk municipality. In 2013, he received the jury's award at *Extract13* at Gl. Strand, *Fokus15* at Kunsthallen Nikolaj in 2015 and the Statens Kunstfonds work grant in 2017, 2021-2022.