

MONIKA PATUSZYŃSKA

Patuszyńska considers herself an artist more than a designer as she is more interested in the technological process of creating porcelain itself than in the final outcome with its functional and non-functional implications. She is a well-renowned artist belonging to the Académie Internationale de la Céramique in Genève, whose works were exhibited prestigious locations such as Puls Contemporary Ceramics gallery in Brussels or Royal College of Art in London. Patuszyńska draws inspiration from the moulding and casting possibilities of porcelain. She looks for uniqueness and, thus, deforms well-known shapes and transforms functional vessels into objects of art: raspy, unsymmetrical, sometimes even creepy like in the series 'Ex-forms, Papforms, Transforms and Paraforms'. The artist is interested in the porcelain industry. In the project 'Bastard & Orphans' (2012-2013) the plaster moulds from closed European porcelain factories such as 'Książ' in Wałbrzych, 'Manufacture Royal Boch' in La Louviere, or 'Porcela-

na Śląska' in Katowice, became a carrier of history and identity of the factories. Working in the post-industrial space was a part of the whole project which sought to restore the proper meaning of the abandoned places and unwanted objects. Patuszyńska created a series of objects that are a variation on old industrial forms, which long ago lost their *raison d'être*. Deformed teacups, sugar bowls, sauce boats, ladles and jugs bear in them a dose of melancholy and longing for the past; but in the hands of the artist they gain new lives and again become objects of desire — with old ornaments and decorations that look even more subtly mixed with rough structures of unpolished porcelain. As the artists put it, they are merely a by-product of the project, which is fixated on 'the very process of working with the tissue of an abandoned factory: the order of corridors hollowed by time, the structure of decay, attempts to record it'. The final objects are mute witnesses of the world that has been there a while ago and disappeared suddenly from the landscape.

