

Alison Britton

Fieldwork

14.09 – 29.10.2017

Gallery Format Oslo is proud to present the first solo exhibition of **Alison Britton** in Scandinavia. Britton is a leading British ceramicist and writer whose artistic work has inscribed her into the international history of art and craft.

Britton belongs to a generation of ceramic students that emerged from the Royal College of Art, London, in the 1970s that distinguished itself by challenging the boundaries between craft and fine art. As a part of the radical movement known as “The New Ceramics”, Britton became a prominent figure in the emergence of postmodern aesthetics within arts and crafts. A central aspect of this movement was to subvert and deconstruct rigid modernist ideas about function and form which had dominated Western art and design since the early 20th century.

In her work, Britton celebrates ambiguity and transgression, allowing her works to be ornamental, irreverent and gestural. Another famous ceramic artist and writer, Edmund de Waal, writes that “With Alison Britton nothing is quite what it seems. Her pots look as if they could be vases or dishes, but often turn out to be resistant to use. There might be vestigial spouts, a handle or feet, but it is as if the function of the pot has atrophied.” (The Pot Book). The exhibition *Fieldwork* largely consists of new works never exhibited before.

Alison Britton (b. 1948) lives and works in London. She is represented in major public and private collections worldwide, including the V&A, London; Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh; Australian National Gallery, Canberra; National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto; Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris; and the National Museum of Art, Design and Architecture, Oslo. She teaches at the Royal College of Art in London and is a Senior Tutor in the Ceramics and Glass programme. She was awarded the OBE in 1990.