

Sculpture - Lord of the Mountains

Ceramics and Glass Collection

Accession Nr.:	2019.40.1.1-2 
Artist/Maker:	Szalai, László (1948 -) / ceramist
Date of production:	2009
Place of production:	Hódmezővásárhely
Inscription:	ltsz. 2019 .40 .1 .1. tárgy alján fekete tollal, kézzel írva: egybekapcsolt LSZ monogram / 2009
Materials:	cordierite
Techniques:	cast
Dimensions:	height: 75 cm maximum width: 86 cm thickness: 6,5 cm weight: min. 15 kg

The sculpture entitled *Hegyek ura (The Lord of the Mountains)* vividly shows the artistic attitude and intentions of the ceramic artist László Szalai: his works inspired by nature evoke the relationship between nature and man, and the often destructive and harmful presence of civilization. The title of the work that shapes the peak of a mountain reflects well on this duality, who is the true lord of the mountains, the majestic nature, or a man insignificant to nature?

The two-piece work is made of cordierite, a special ceramic raw material which is produced by Imerys Tűzállóanyaggyártó Kft. [Imerys Fireproof Materials Producer Ltd.] in Hódmezővásárhely, and is fired at a very high temperature of 1350 °C. Another curiosity of the coolly elegant, off-white sculpture is that its pair – which gained its velvety black colour during the fired with oil raku technique in a reducing atmosphere – is in the collection of the International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemét.

Literature

- Novák Piroska: *Voices in Ceramics. Contemporary Hungarian Ceramic Art*. Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu / Japán, 2023. - p. 221. Nr. 109; fotó: p. 156-157. Nr. 109



