

Elysia Athanatos
Alchemy and Gold



cover:

black stoneware with gold luster, Ø97x57 cm

opposite:

black stoneware, Ø30x27 cm

Elysia Athanatos
Alchemy and Gold



November 2018 · Alpha C.K. Art Gallery



white stoneware with gold luster, Ø34x55 cm



white stoneware with gold luster, Ø36x40 cm



porcelain with gold luster, Ø48x43 cm

Alpha C.K. Art Gallery in Nicosia presents Alchemy and Gold, the first monographic show by Elysia Athanatos in Cyprus. The show comes one year after Terre, oro, pneuma, a solo show held at Ariete Arte Contemporanea in Bologna (curated by Eleonora Frattarolo), in which the artist consolidated, and showed in a memorable display, the results of the research work she had begun in Jingdezhen, China, and developed in Faenza. The installations of Elysia Athanatos comprise large, small, sometimes enormous vases made in stoneware or porcelain, masterfully crafted and visually unforgettable. While their outer color may be black, white, brown, or gold, on the inside they are entirely glazed with gold, platinum luster or oxides.

“Alchemic mastery” was the name given to “lustre” in the Middle Ages, and to endow a matt, humble material like clay with a golden appearance, was the ultimate goal of majolica decorators, and a practice worthy of alchemy. The origins of the technique behind the process of chemical reduction involved in producing the lustre effect on already fired pieces of ceramic, goes back to the Arabs. We know of experiments carried out as early as the 9th century, yet the very first evidence that has survived to our day is the Deruta square, kept at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, which dates back to 1500.

It is truly peculiar that Elysia Athanatos, a young artist living in the age of the web and social networks, should learn to master an ancient craft, which involves the simultaneous use of the hands and brain, which requires physical effort to knead clay and put it into the kiln, and which makes the artist sweat and worry about the firing process and resistance of materials. Elysia is outside all kinds of conformity, fashion, or codified language. In the Alpha C.K. Art Gallery, atop white, slender pedestals, visitors will see tight-bellied pots, which rise up, shaken by the wind of action, pushed by the breath of material, mental and spiritual energies. They will see smooth reflections of the world that watches as whirls, furrows, unexplainable cavities, craters and chasms open up. Then, on glass shelves, they will see countless dinoi, small, shiny, colored, precious. They are ritual pieces in an ideal banquet, with which Elysia celebrates her homecoming, her return to the island of Cyprus.

Eleonora Frattarolo, Curator
November 2018

English translation by Elisabetta Zoni



coral stoneware with gold luster, Ø46x42 cm



coral stoneware with gold luster, Ø36x33 cm

Elysia Athanatos was born in 1981 in England and grew up in Cyprus. She lives and works in Bologna, Italy. She studied at the Chelsea College of Arts (University of the Arts, London). She continued her studies in sculpture at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Upon completing her studies in Florence, she followed an artist residency program in porcelain studies at the Sanbao Ceramic Art Institute in Jingdezhen, China and ceramics specialization program at the Istituto Statale d'Arte per la Ceramica Gaetano Ballardini in Faenze, Italy.

Exhibitions (selection)

- 2018 "Alchemy and Gold ", Alpha C.K. Art Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus (solo exhibition curated by Eleonora Frattarolo)
- 2018 "Da Occidente a Oriente", CRAC, Castelnuovo Rangone, Italy (solo exhibition curated by Eleonora Frattarolo)
- 2018 "Ceramica Contemporanea.Nuovi Maestri" Castello di Levizzano Rangone, Modena, Italy (group exhibition)
- 2018 "Container and Content" Biennale Lamaca, Lamaca, Cyprus
- 2018 "Volumi e Superfici", Galleria Antonio Verolino, Modena, Italy (group exhibition)
- 2018 ICMEA in Italy, Terzorio, Imperia, Italy
- 2018 "Le Stanze del Collezionista, Vaccari Home Atelier, Sozzigalli di Soliera, Modena, Italy
- 2018 Ceramic Biennale - Ceramica in Celle, Celle Ligure, Italy
- 2018 "Elysia Athanatos at Paolo Atti", Bologna, Italy (curated by Eleonora Frattarolo)
- 2017 "Pneuma.Oro.Terre", Galleria Ariete artecontemporanea, Bologna, Italy (solo exhibition curated by Eleonora Frattarolo)
- 2016 "Stanze della Meraviglia- Esoterismo Fantastico Incanto nella Rocchetta Matte", Rocchetta Mattei, Riola, Italy (group exhibition curated by Eleonora Frattarolo)
- 2016 "Arte e Gioco" Terzorio, Imperia, Italy, (group exhibition curated by Giorgio Bonomi)
- 2016 "Progetto T3rra", Galleria d'Arte Eleutheros, Albissola Marina, Italy (solo exhibition)
- 2015 International Sculpture Symposium "Pani di T3rra", project by Centro Culturale Paraxo (in collaboration with the Milano EXPO), Alassio, Italy
- 2012 "Corpo", Human Rights Nights Festival, Cinetica di Bologna, Italy (dual exhibition)



white stoneware with gold luster, Ø60x66 cm



white stoneware with gold, luster, Ø65x47 cm



white stoneware with oxide glaze, Ø43x24 cm



black stoneware with gold luster, Ø48x73 cm



black stoneware with gold luster, Ø43x77 cm



white stoneware with gold luster, Ø40x52 cm



white stoneware with gold luster, Ø40x53 cm



black stoneware with oxides and gold luster, Ø58x41 cm



black stoneware with gold luster, Ø40x31 cm



black earthenware with gold luster, Ø55x50 cm



black earthenware with gold luster, Ø62x18 cm



white stoneware with platinum luster, Ø53x39 cm



white stoneware with platinum luster, Ø70x67 cm



black earthenware with gold luster, Ø36x55 cm



black earthenware with gold luster, Ø60x50 cm



black earthenware with oxides glaze, Ø58x12 cm



stoneware with oxides glaze, Ø52x36 cm



black stoneware, Ø32x44 cm



black earthenware with platinum luster, Ø30x35 cm



black stoneware, Ø28x40 cm

back cover:
black earthenware with gold luster, Ø44x11 cm



Alpha C.K.

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