

EXPRESSIONS

DIPALEE DAROZ



CUB | C EXPRESSIONS

DIPALEE DAROZ

SANGEET SHYAMALA
in collaboration with
ART ALINDA



Curator

Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya

SURRENDRA PAUL ART GALLERY

SANGEET SHYAMALA

Corner of Streets A 11 and A12
Vasant Vihar, New Delhi - 110057



CURATOR'S NOTE

The work of Dipalee Daroz is imbued with a profound sense of yearning—a restless pursuit that can only be satisfied when she reaches a particular point in her artistic evolution. This yearning is not just thematic but infused in her creative process, where the interplay between control and surrender shapes her art. Her greatest strength lies in her mastery of materials as a vehicle for expression. They tell a deeper story; it is not just an art medium but a storytelling device that conveys her inner thoughts and ideas. Unlike traditional sculptural methods that impose form upon matter, Dipalee allows her materials to assert their own agency. The transformation of clay, glazes, and other mediums guided by fire, chemicals, and natural reactions introduces an element of unpredictability. Rather than resisting this self-morphing quality, she embraces it, adapting to the evolving forms while still imprinting her artistic vision onto them. In this way, her work becomes less about construction and more akin to scientific exploration, making it an ongoing process of experimentation, observation, and discovery.



Her art emerges as a unique fusion of her vision and the inherent qualities of her medium. Each sculpture carries traces of her thought process, revealed in the intricate grooves, ridges, and organic transformations of the material. Her work possesses a deep relatability, an innate universality that allows multiple narratives to intertwine, much like the chapters of a beautifully crafted novel. A true artist is defined by their relentless pursuit of new directions, and Dipalee exemplifies this through her ever-evolving creative journey. While most people overlook the artistic potential of everyday objects, she sees inspiration in the most unexpected places. Constantly searching for fresh angles of expression both in technique and material. She pushes the boundaries of her artistic language. With her latest series of sculptures, she continues to carve out new pathways, reaffirming the essence of what it means to be an artist, to explore, to innovate, and to transform. This initiative is powered by the dynamic interplay of visual elements and the medium that effectively showcases them.

When the artist finally presents their work to the world, they see themselves reflected in the eyes of the audience, as if being truly seen for the first time. There is a deep sense of fulfillment in this moment—an affirmation that fuels their creative spirit. This recognition becomes a catalyst, driving the artist to seek new directions, explore uncharted territories, and continue evolving on their artistic journey.

- Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF BODIES ON THIS EARTH — ONE MADE OF ORGANIC MATERIAL AND ANOTHER MADE OF MAN-MADE MATERIALS. ORGANIC BODIES OCCUR NATURALLY AND ENCOMPASS HUMANS, ANIMALS, PLANTS, AND MICROORGANISMS. OVER TIME, THESE ORGANIC BODIES DECOMPOSE, THEREBY RETURNING ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE ECOSYSTEM'S CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH. CONVERSELY, MAN-MADE BODIES ARE ARTIFICIALLY CREATED USING SYNTHETIC OR PROCESSED MATERIALS, SUCH AS METALS, PLASTICS, CERAMICS, AND COMPOSITES. THESE STRUCTURES ARE DESIGNED WITH EFFICIENCY IN MIND AND DO NOT UNDERGO DECOMPOSITION IN THE SAME MANNER AS THEIR ORGANIC COUNTERPARTS.

SERIES 1

This sculpture series reflects the impact of industrial intervention on modern human civilization. Machines play a significant role in contemporary life, becoming essential to our existence.

Ceramic,
16" x 10.5" x 5"
2025





Ceramic, 13" x 9.5" x 5", 2025

The sculptures, crafted from earth, have an animal-like appearance, yet they are constructed using machinery. These man-made and man-held forms embody a mechanical and industrial dimension, prompting us to question how technology influences nature and the human experience.



Ceramic, 11" x 10.5" x 7.5", 2025



Ceramic, 9" x 11" x 7", 2025

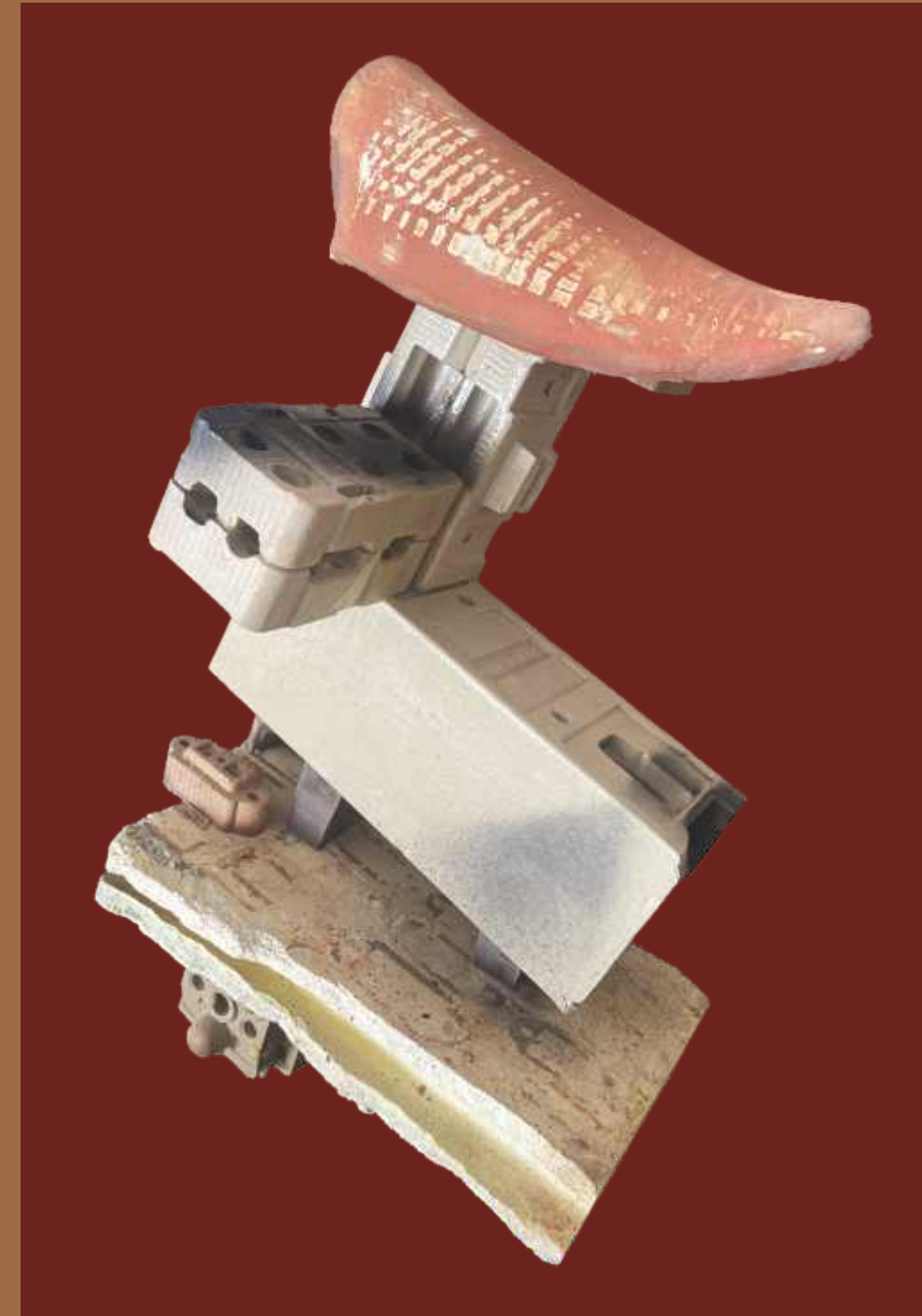




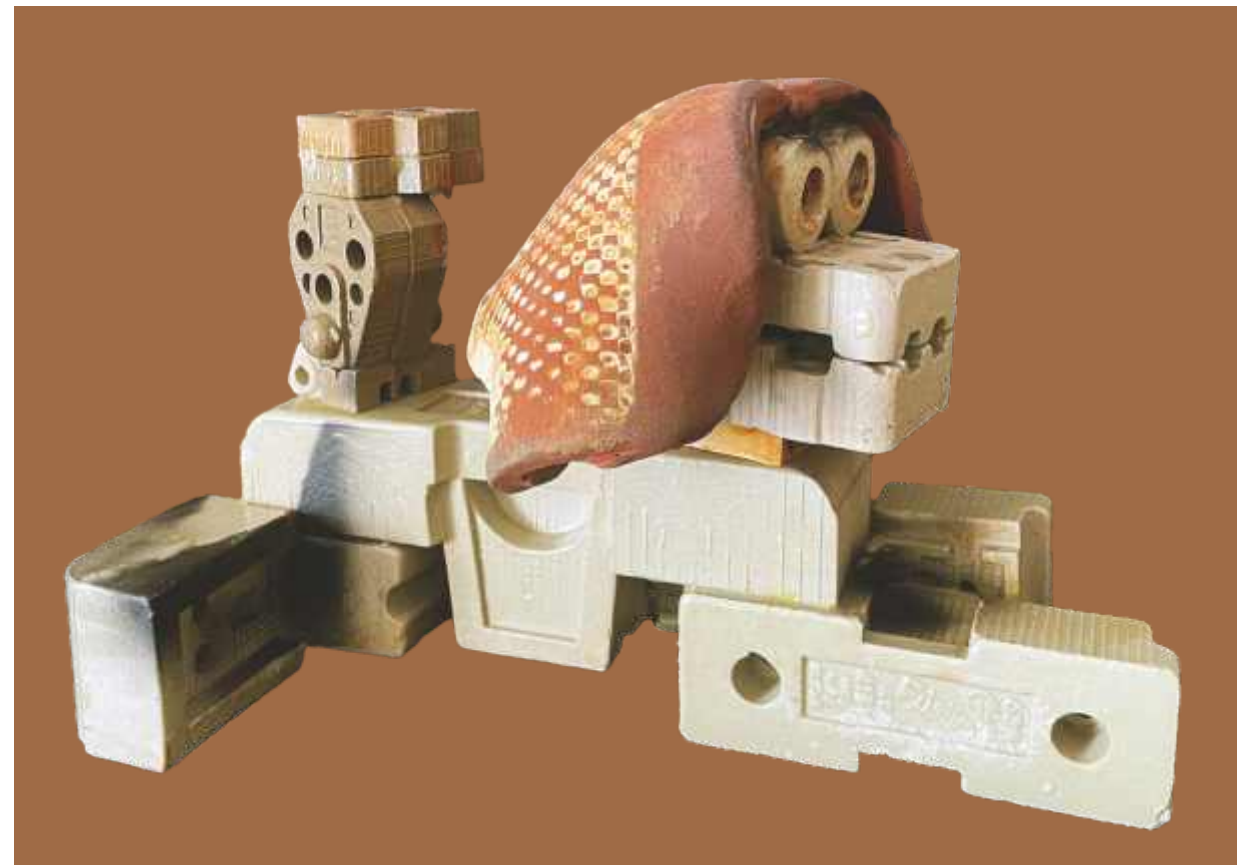
Ceramic,
5" x 12" x 9"
2025



Additionally, these sculptures serve as a metaphor for the remnants of modern industrial development, exploring themes of waste and transformation.



Ceramic, 15" x 10" x 5", 2025



Ceramic, 7" x 12" x 8", 2025

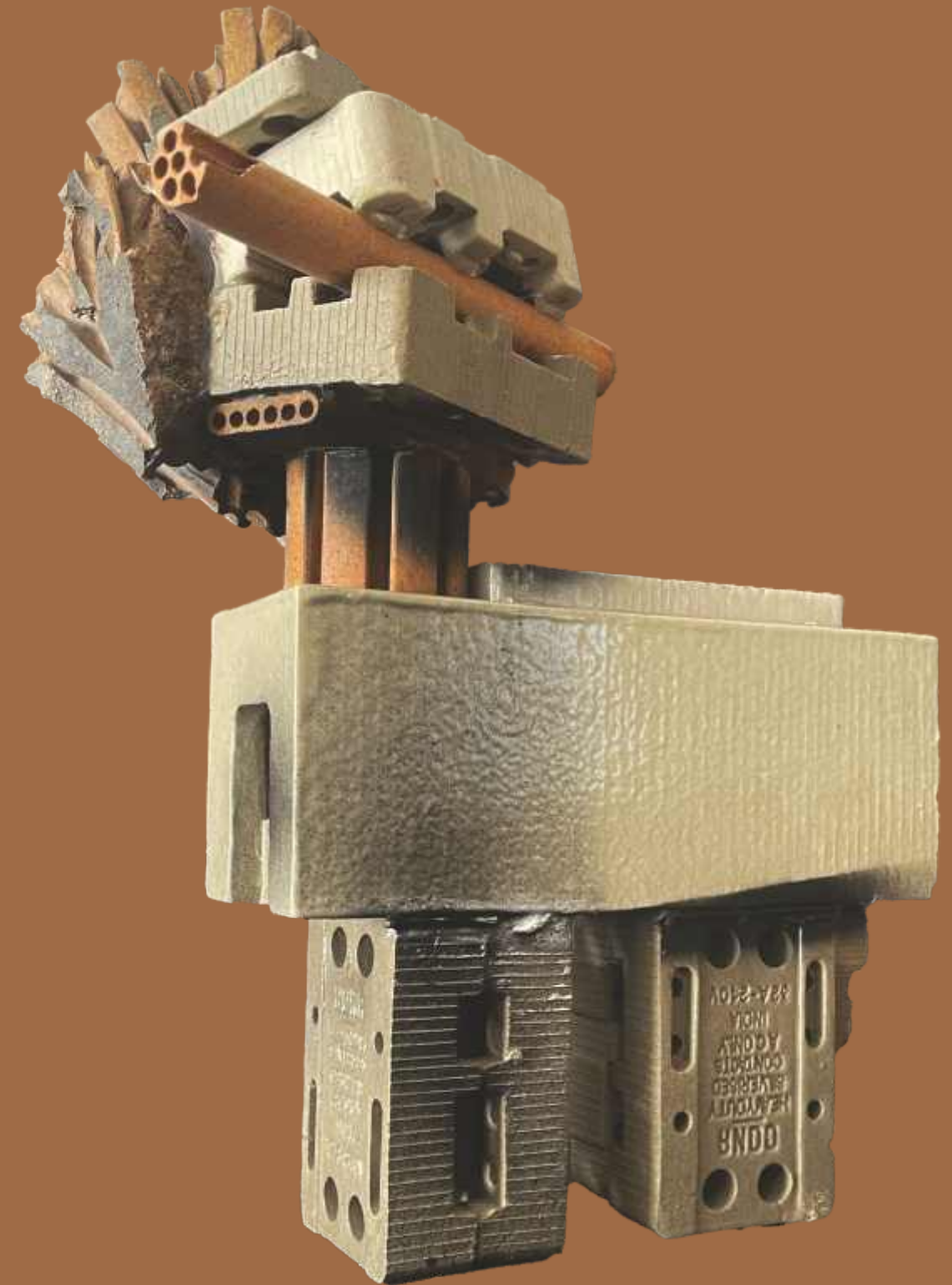


Ceramic, 11" x 7" x 6", 2025





Ceramic, 12" x 11" x 6", 2025



Despite their inorganic and industrial feel, the sculptures convey a sense of life, blurring the boundaries between the organic and the manufactured.



Ceramic, 9" x 9" x 6.5", 2025



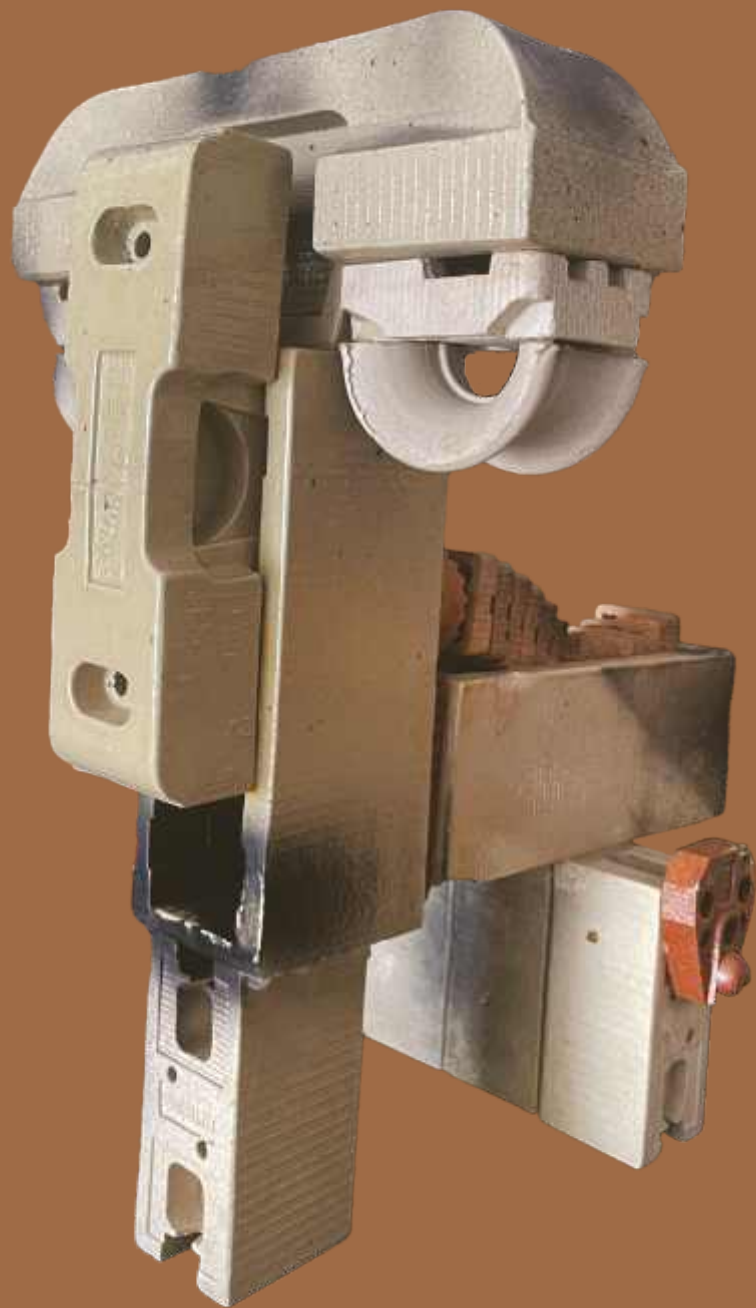
Ceramic, 9" x 9" x 5", 2025

With a playful and quirky expression, these works highlight how industrialisation has changed the way we interact with the natural world.

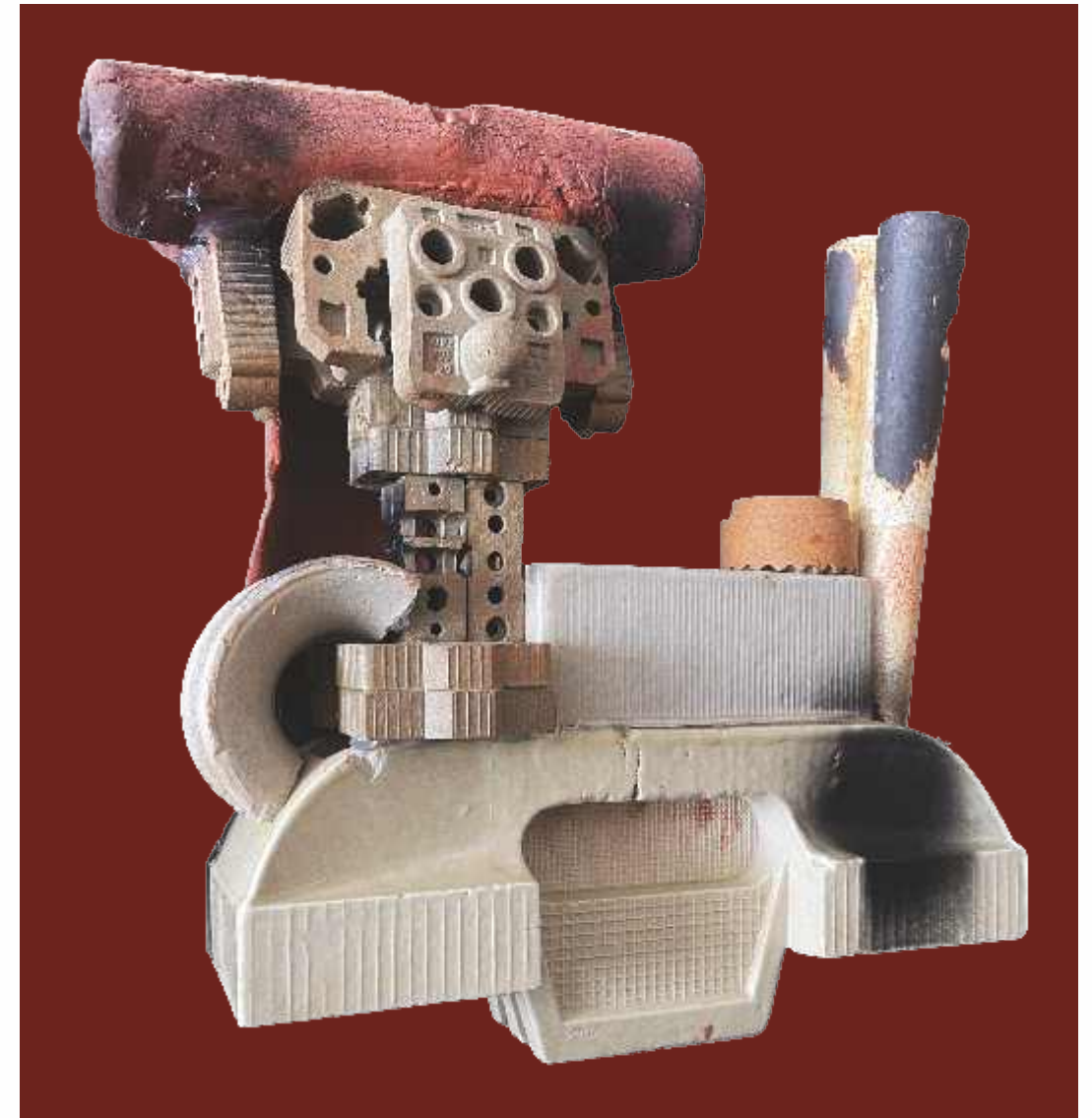


Ceramic, 16" x 13" x 5", 2025

By juxtaposing traditionally symbolic sculptures with those influenced by machine and industrial forms, this artistic exploration raises critical questions about progress, identity, and the balance between the past and the future.



Ceramic
15" x 12" x 9"
2025



Ceramic, 10.5" x 9.5" x 5", 2025

SERIES 2

Hair is a unique human trait that distinguishes us from other primates. It is neither strictly masculine nor feminine but a universal human characteristic. It serves as an immediate and visible marker of racial and religious identities.



Ceramic, 20" x 18" x 13", 2022

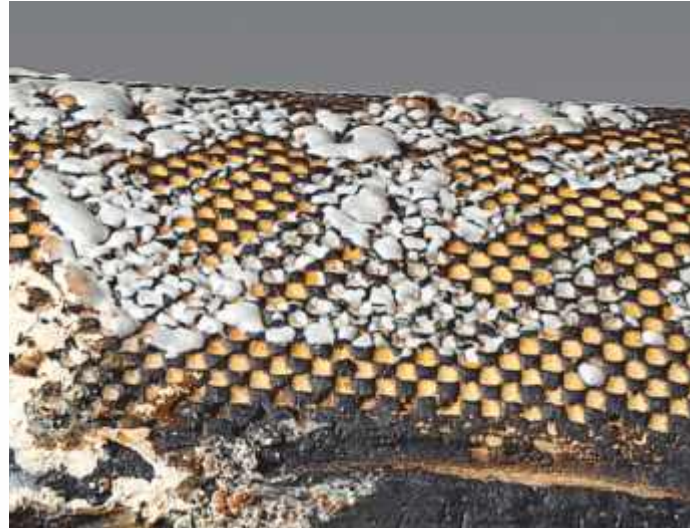


The series amalgamates personal, ethnic and social expressions. It draws inspiration from ancient Indian sculptures, where hair was depicted not merely as a physical feature but as a symbol of power, beauty, spirituality, and status.



Ceramic,
23" x 19" x 17", 2022





The sculptures depict a full head of hair, often showcasing various coiffure styles that symbolize energy, thought, sensuality, prestige, and divinity. Tying the hair at the crown represents discipline, humility, and submission to the divine. The metaphor embodies the flowing energy and power of thought, mind and beauty. This tale of self-discovery reveals the complexity of the human being both as a biological entity and as a cultural phenomenon within the Indian context.



Ceramic, 21.5" x 26" x 15", 2023





The purist approach to ceramics is complemented by a keen development of techniques in form and texture. The artwork is inspired by the aged, weathered surfaces of Cambodian monuments, creating an antique aesthetic.



Ceramic, 18" x 18" x 16", 2023



The connotative ascent of the human psyche and its preoccupations with self-adornment is just as significant and universal as the ancient ones. The sculptures are all perceived as a voluminous, solid form retaining the plastic values of clay. However, they are intuitively modelled imaginative forms.



Ceramic, 31" x 23" x 19", 2023





Ceramic, 19" x 22" x 13", 2023

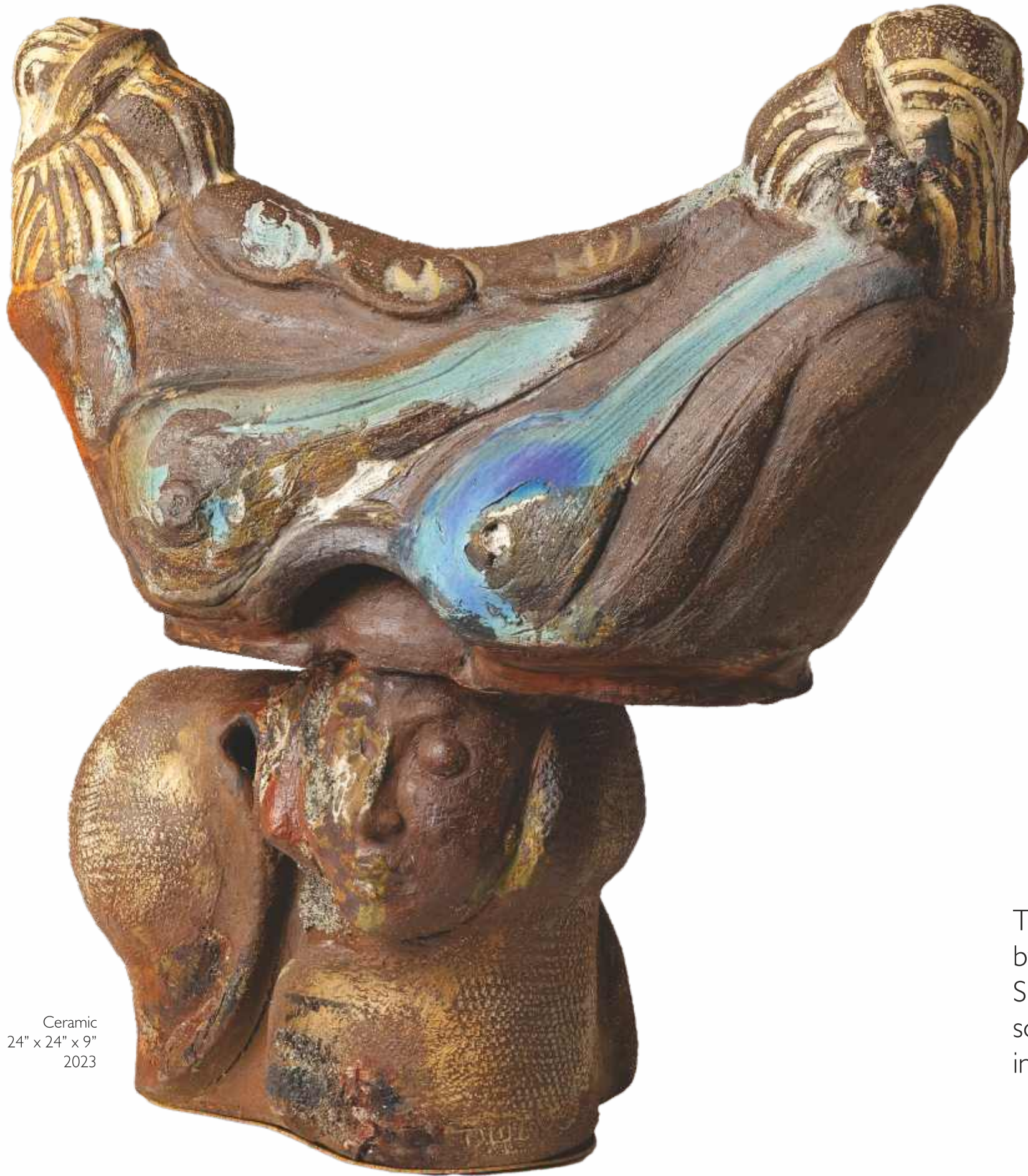


The sculptures explore and express this biological and social embeddedness of human hair from a metaphorical dimension that not only varies spatially and temporally but is also given to tracing their progression from the past to the future. They celebrate a basic human emotion.



Ceramic, 22" x 25" x 17", 2021





Ceramic
24" x 24" x 9"
2023

The series connects the present with India's rich artistic past by referencing sculptural traditions from the Mauryan-Shunga period. The simplistic nature of Ancient Terracotta sculptures from this period depicts contemporary fashion influenced by the Indo-Greek Hellenistic era.



Searching possibilities within myself to find an expression through the medium of ceramic, continues to be my preoccupation. Through my artworks, I seek to explore the two-fold dimension of embodiment and perception, which plays out as much within the confines of the objectified representation as between the discerning gaze of the viewer. To me, the object is the material manifestation which is tangible, marked and inscribed in form. The perception is intangible, immaterial, communicative or sensorial. In my ceramic works, I try to find a consonance between the tangible sensed and the intangible perceived. Observations intrinsic to my psyche lie dormant for years as a composite nucleus, left to wander and mutate into infinite forms.

I enjoy and acknowledge the relationship between a ceramic form and ceramic materials. As a clay artist, understanding the materials and applying them to my form gives me holistic fulfilment.

In general, the raw reality of imagery is pure and more powerful than the external reality of preconceived themes expressed through the imagery. For me, the expressive power in a pictorial composition is most meaningful.



Ceramic Relief Mural , 24" x 24"

Dipalee Daroz

Born 1967

Began career at the ceramic studio of Bharat-Bhavan, Bhopal (1988)

Taught at Delhi Blue Pottery Studio (1993-1997)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Alliance Française, Bhopal

Art Alive Gallery, New Delhi

Gallery Nvya, New Delhi

Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Multiple Realities: Voices in Contemporary Indian Ceramics, Clay Arch Museum, South Korea

'Earth and Sea', Gallery Art motif, Delhi

'Wind from a Butterfly's Wings', Gallery 079 stories, Ahmedabad

Riyaz, art show, New Delhi

The Human Spirit: Propositions on Resilience in These Irregular Times, Indo-Korean online ceramic show

Breaking Ground, 1st Indian Ceramics Triennale, Jaipur

Mutable, Primal Museum of Art, Mumbai

Luminous & Transition/Tradition, Gallery Nvya

Digging-Time, Gallery Art Positive, New Delhi

AWARDS & GRANTS

National Scholarship & Junior Fellowship Award, Ministry of Culture (HRD)

Crafts Museum Grant for research on Indian traditional black pottery of Azamgarh

Charles Wallace India Trust Award (2002)

RESIDENCIES & WORKSHOPS

Artist-in-Residence, Jingdezhen, China (2008)

Ceramic workshop, Ceramic Center, Vadodara (Jyotsna Bhatt Tribute)

Arthshila International Artists Symposium (2018)

Ceramic Symposium, Siwan, Bihar (2020)

Ceramic Workshop, Kala Bhavan, Shantiniketan

National Symposium on Metal Sculptures, Jaipur (2025)

PUBLICATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Co-authored 'Fire in the Soul', a book on ceramic artist P. R. Daroz

Contributor to various art journals on ceramics

Courtesy:

Art Alinda & Team

Design: Dilip Ghosh

Translation: Sneha Singh



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