

Ceramic Design, Art and Architecture  
TOM MORRIS

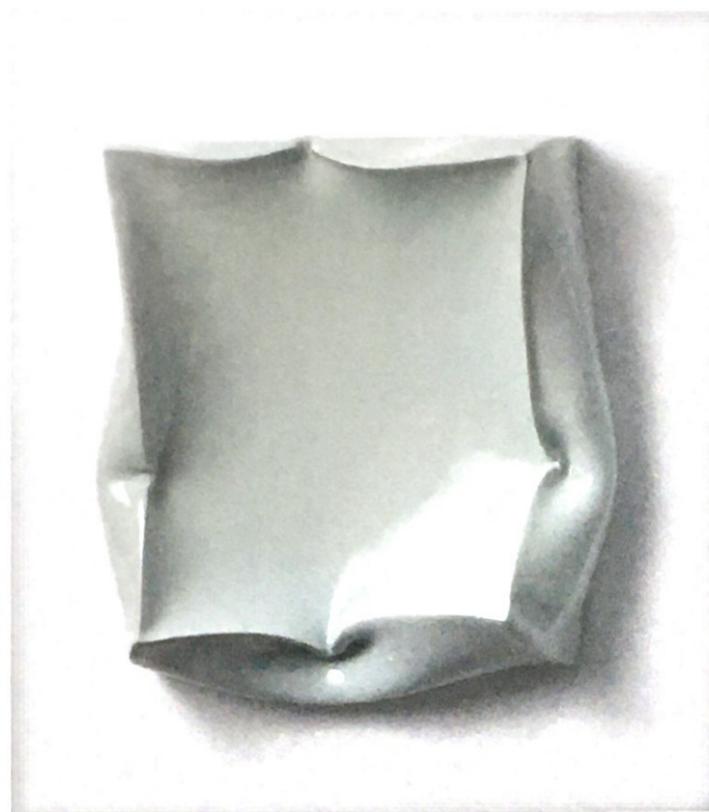


FRAME



Works from the *Monolithe de Sèvres* series created by Boos as artist-in-residence at Sèvres's glaze, colour and porcelain paste laboratory. These shapes are simply seen as constructions for him to indulge in experiments with glaze.

# EMMANUEL BOOS



French ceramicist Emmanuel Boos uses simple porcelain letterboxes, tablets and cobblestones to explore the potential of glaze

Imagine if Donald Judd was enraptured by the depth, unpredictability and artistic potential of glaze and you will picture something close to the work of EMMANUEL BOOS. The Royal College of Art graduate and artist-in-residence at Sèvres's glaze, colour and porcelain paste laboratory has completed a PhD in the subject, and uses his porcelain box forms simply as, as he puts it, 'a playground for glaze: a space for glaze to develop over.'

Boos's interest was first triggered in glaze when he discovered the speckled 'fish-scale' celadon surfaces of the Japanese 'National Treasure' Shimizu Uichi (1926-2004) back in 1996. He's been on a glaze quest ever since (and trained with mas-

ter potters Jean Girel and Emmanuel Cooper on the matter) with one objective: 'My interest in glazes is not technical and I am not interested in the science of glaze beyond its practicality. My interest is of an aesthetic and artistic nature,' he says.

While his glazed surfaces team with complex veins, scales and reflections, formally Boos owes more to Judd or Carl Andre and his bricks: he works in straightforward repetition and geometry. 'I strive for a form of minimalism, simplicity, maybe even blandness as praised in Chinese Song Dynasty aesthetics,' he says of the luminous letter boxes, cobblestones and tablets.

PRIME CLAY BODY

Porcelain

PRIME TECHNIQUE

Slab building, hand building, throwing and slip casting

PRIME GLAZES

Copper reds, celadon, tenmoku and some crystalline

PREDOMINANT FORM

Sculpture and fine art



A fireplace project constructed out of 41 pieces by Boos, who refers to himself as a 'glaze artist' and writes extensively on the subject.