

Barbro Åberg: Organic Memory Artist statement

Organic forms and shapes have been a reoccurring theme in my ceramic work for a long stretch of time, probably throughout decades by now. There is an abundance of inspiration to be found in the natural world; both in animals, plants, fossils, seeds and pods. But there is also a lot of visual inspiration to be found in the micro- and macro-cosmos that surrounds us. Shapes, structures and forms that are not visible to the human eye, but that we now can see thanks to the invention of large telescopes like Hubble and the finest electronic microscopes.

From a young age I have collected pebbles, rocks, seeds and pods whenever I was strolling along the Baltic Sea in the north of Sweden. As a young adult I started taking inspiration images of things that caught my eye, and by now I have so many that I cannot even count them. My husband Morten is very interested in science, so when I met him, I also discovered the fascinating imagery that derives from scientific research.

I then realized that there is something universal to all the shapes, forms and patterns that surround us.

My working process usually begins with a quick sketch. The ideas appear at the most unexpected times, while taking a walk or riding on the train just staring out the window, but most often while working in the studio. I try to be diligent in catching my ideas in my sketchbook in order to remember them later on. While working on a new sculpture, the process is not only inspired by my sketch, but also driven by my intuition, my thoughts and reflections during the working process and the presence, the intensity of the moment.

The way I see it, I now have a large, imaginary "suitcase of organic memories" to my availability, whenever I create a new piece.