

Ariel - The tempest

Arnaud Quercy



Where Shakespeare's most ethereal spirit becomes earth, fire, and wax
—impossible containment made visible.

MEDIUM	Ceramic
DIMENSIONS	12.0×15.0×27.0cm
YEAR	2023
ORIGIN	France
WEIGHT	1.3 kg
REFERENCE	Arnaud Quercy Creations / AQC0465 / 2023
SOLD	Boulogne-Billancourt, France
CERTIFICATE	20231231-0052

CURATORIAL NOTES

This ceramic sculpture transforms Shakespeare's air spirit through elemental paradox, binding the ethereal character of Ariel in earth and fire through hand-formed petite chamotte terra. High-fired and sealed with beeswax using ancient protective techniques, the work intensifies the contradiction between the spirit's nature and its material imprisonment. The piece evolves from an earlier 2022 work, abandoning representational features entirely in favor of geometric fragmentation that captures the character's shapeshifting essence through spatial decomposition.

Faceted planes break across the form's surface, creating sharp angular edges that suggest both violent containment and impossible dissolution. The sculpture presents a spirit arrested mid-dispersal, scattered across geometric breaks rather than held in singular form. A single hollow opening in the upper portion serves as the last trace of identity, a gap that admits the work's own incompleteness. The raw earthen surface, textured from the chamotte clay body, contrasts with the smooth beeswax finish that seals and protects the fired ceramic.

The vertical composition rises from a wider base, encoding aspiration toward freedom even while bound in earthen weight. Standing twelve centimeters wide by fifteen centimeters deep by twenty-seven centimeters tall, the sculpture requires close viewing to perceive how the diagonal lean creates temporary equilibrium. The form suggests a configuration that might collapse into constituent fragments or reconstitute into another shape, rendering Ariel's essential paradox as arrested motion in fired clay.

Part of the Spells and Magic collection exploring mythological themes through ceramic form, this work demonstrates how traditional hand-forming techniques and high-fire processes can embody conceptual contradictions. The sculpture includes certificate of authenticity 20231231-0052 and represents a sold work from the artist's 2023 production.

WHERE THIS WORK LIVES

PROVENANCE

Origin: Arnaud Quercy, Paris, France, 2023

Acquired: 2024-05-27 — Private collection — Boulogne-Billancourt, France during *Rencontres au Marché de la Création*

Series: Shakespeare

Collection: Spells and Magic

Technique: Ceramic

EXHIBITIONS

Transcendence – World Premiere of Ephemera Arts (2023-10-29 → 2023-11-15, Koblener Kunstverein e.V., Koblenz)

Rencontres au Marché de la Création (2024-04-23 → 2024-12-31, Marché de la Création – Paris Montparnasse, Paris)

OTHER WORKS IN THIS SERIES

Ariel - The Spirit

Sir Galahad

Sir John Falstaff

Bertram

Ariel, the spirit

DOCUMENTED AT

Catalogue Raisonné — Ariel - The tempest — Ariel - The Tempest — Hand-Formed Ceramic Sculpture — Arnaud Quercy (2023)

Nanopublication — Ariel - The tempest — Digital Image Documentation - aqc0465_img_full_2500x2500_webp

Nanopublication — Ariel - The tempest — Physical Specifications

Nanopublication — Ariel - The tempest — Material Evolution from Hybrid to Elemental Bondage

Nanopublication — Ariel - The tempest — Cubist Fragmentation as Spirit Dispersal

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

hand-formed ceramic sculpture petite chamotte terra Shakespeare Ariel
 sculpture geometric fragmentation high-fire ceramic
 beeswax sealed sculpture Spells and Magic collection cubist spatial
 decomposition contemporary ceramic art mythological ceramic sculpture
 elemental paradox sculpture Arnaud Quercy ceramics

THE ARTIST**Arnaud Quercy**

Arnaud Quercy is a Parisian artist working across painting, music, and sculpture. His practice is grounded in Ideamorphism — the principle that a work of art does not carry meaning, but triggers it. Each piece is engineered to diffract differently through each person who encounters it.

FROM SPELLS AND MAGIC

Dragon Ceramic on Ceramic, 23.0×13.0×28.0cm : https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2024/01/dragon_7c4.html

Ramon, the garden keeper - Variation 1 Ceramic on Ceramic, 32.0×44.0×5.0cm NOT FOR SALE : https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2023/01/ramon-the-garden-keeper-variation-1_522.html

A Happy Man Ceramic on Ceramic, 17.0×12.0×37.0cm : https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2024/01/a-happy-man_5pe.html

GRIMOIRE Ceramic on Ceramic, 14.0×30.0×10.0cm SOLD · PRIVATE COLLECTION · NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE, FRANCE : https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2024/01/grimoire_6ea.html

View Complete Collection: <https://artquamanima.com/en/catalog/collection/spells-and-magic.html>

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