



# Structures of Accelerations / Systems of Repetitions

by Mikkel Ørsted

Opening: March 3, 2023, 5-8 pm, Gas9Gallery, Gasværksvej 9, 1656, Cph V. Exhibition period: March 3 - April 15, 2023

In the exhibition *Structures of Accelerations / Systems of Repetitions* Mikkel Ørsted presents large-scale ceramic vessels, etchings and paintings balancing decorative and abstract aesthetics. New systems and visualities appear between recognizable organic forms and unknown chemical processes, as Ørsted insists on challenging the boundaries of materiality.

From wall to wall across the gallery space, vessels in various sizes with organic forms, spiky collars, striped glaze, and glittery edge bandings stand on an industrial iron platform that Ørsted has created for the exhibition. The works all stem from the ton clay that Ørsted has molded and shaped within the last year in the workshop at his childhood home in Odsherred, Denmark. Here nature, craftsmanship, and art grown together and the legacy of the Danish physicist H.C.Ørsted, to whom Mikkel Ørsted is related, exists as much in his fathers blacksmith's/inventor workshop, as in his pedagogical upbringing, and the surrounding nature tracks where philosophical thoughts and new inner landscapes and shapes appear.

The exhibition *Structures of Accelerations / Systems of Repetitions* come about as a curiosity about the physicality of the world – what it means to build up forms and aesthetics, to scrap away and let new ones arise with sore hands and broken skin. Like the scientific practice of H.C.Ørsted, Mikkel Ørsted's artistic practice is a search into the unknown – where the world's structures and systems appear when you look close enough.

The ceramics are reminiscent of classical vessels. Still, they do not have a clear beginning, opening or ending – but exist on the outside, inside and in relation to one another. This is important to Ørsted as he insists on an open dialogue with the works that makes room for uncertainty. Within the practice of burning ceramics, the aesthetics come about spontaneously and intuitively but they are created in the blind imagination as the glaze and clay change within the chemical process. The heat and strength of the hands that build, the weather during the drying period, and the thickness of the painted glaze, that only turns to glass and color in the end, all affect the final result. For Ørsted this is a welcome challenge where the materials give something of great value back to him.

The ceramics align with Ørsted's painting method – where many layers, materials and forms are connected as single entities or particles within a larger system beyond the canvas. By repeating his signature lines, detailed airbrush and fast-paced abstract brushstrokes – Ørsted weaves clay, iron, canvas, wood and pigments together by *Structures of Accelerations / Systems of Repetitions*.

## Gas9Gallery

**Mikkel Ørsted** (b. 1988) is an MFA from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen, 2020. He has exhibited locally at Bricks Gallery, Ekerly, the Artists 'Spring Exhibition, and the Artists' Autumn Exhibition. In the summer of 2021, he had an international solo exhibition at CCA Andratx in Mallorca. In 2020 he published the essay *Skudtråde*. His works are part of the New Carlsberg Foundation collection.