

# MESSUMS

YORKSHIRE

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Thiébaud Chagué

**11 July – 29 August**

MESSUMS YORKSHIRE

We are delighted to be representing Thiébaud Chagué's work following his inaugural exhibition at Messums Wiltshire in 2019 and to be reopening our Harrogate gallery with an exhibition of his incredible ceramic sculpture.

His work is both highly accomplished and playful and his approach to clay is in many ways, unconventional... he allows the material to morph, shift and crack under his manipulation. All his work is wood fired at his studio in Taintrux,

in a remote region of north east France, adding a further layer of unpredictability to the process. His home, surrounded by meadows and high mountain peaks, is remote but there is always plenty of wood to fire his kiln. His work speaks both of material and place, as well as a lifetime dedicated to pushing the limits of what it is possible to do with clay.

He has – amongst many of his trips and residencies – worked alongside the women potters of the Gwari village of Tatiko in Northern Nigeria and he makes the firing of larger works performative and very public – most memorably in the garden of the Victoria and Albert

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Museum where in 2010 he created an improvised kiln around his mighty sculpture La Soif et La Source.

*“In May 2012 I visited Thiébaud Chagué at Taintrux in north east France. Taintrux is in the Vosges, an area that has witnessed battles and bloody conflict over many centuries. The Vosges retains a secret fairy-tale quality and Chagué’s home is surrounded by meadows and encircled by small mountain peaks, dark with fir trees and with deciduous trees on the lower slopes, just coming into bright spring-time leaf. One surviving industry in this remote area is logging. It is a good place for a potter with a wood-fired kiln. Nicholas Bourriaud’s term *esthétique relationnelle*, describing art that produces or prompts human relations, sociability and even conviviality, comes to mind. Of course, Chagué spends time alone in his studio, with its view of meadows and mountains. But his natural playfulness and gift for friendship have led him into communities of all kinds. He has worked alongside the women potters of the Gwari village of Tatiko in Northern Nigeria. He makes the firing of larger works performative and very public – most memorably in the garden of the Victoria and Albert Museum where in 2010 he created an improvised kiln around his mighty sculpture La Soif et La Source.”*

Tanya Harrod, design historian and co-editor of the Journal of Modern Craft

## **Thiébaud Chagué**

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**Messums Harrogate, , 4 – 6 James Street, Harrogate HG1 1RF**

MESSUMS WILTSHIRE is a leading multi-purpose gallery and arts centre set inside a restored thirteenth-century tithe barn and surrounding buildings with exhibition space, sculpture garden and restaurant.

MESSUMS LONDON is modernist gallery space on Cork Street where the family have had a presence since 1992.

MESSUMS YORKSHIRE opened in early July 2020. The third Messums gallery to open in England, it hosts a rolling programme of exhibitions with a focus on clients and artists in the North of England.

A comprehensive list of past and future exhibitions can be found on our websites.

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