ARABIA

marie claire Maison

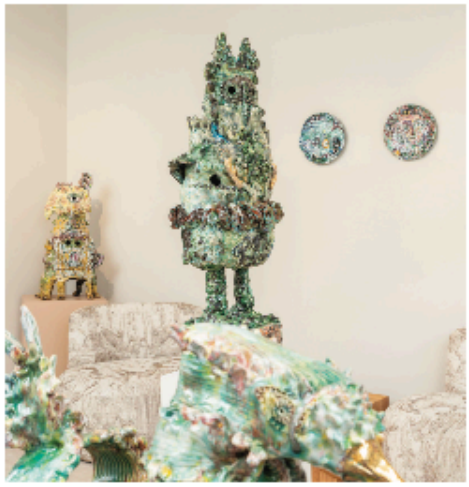


SOULFUL LIVING

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Poetic Creatures

Saraï Delfendahl's Sculptural World of Expression and Energy



Photography by Flaneur Studio



Photography by Paul Hennebelle

Saraï Delfendahl's artistic journey has spanned various mediums, but it is in ceramics that she has truly found her voice.



Photography by Flaneur Studio

"When I create my ceramic sculptures, I don't think of them as ceramics, but as sculptures", she explains. Her diverse artistic exploration influences her ceramic work, with each piece reflecting her previous experiments in painting, engraving, and more. Delfendahl's work is described as ***"expressionist naivety"***—a combination of innocence, simplicity, and emotional depth. ***"When I create, I am fully immersed in these sensations"***, she shares, noting how her sculptures exude an energy that feels almost alive to the viewer. Her childhood, surrounded by cultural influences from both parents, also shapes her sculptures. Raised by an ethnologist father and a mother passionate about storytelling, Delfendahl was exposed to a world where boundaries between humans, animals, and plants were fluid. ***"In many cultures, animals hold great significance"***, she says, describing how this perspective influences the blending of human and animal forms in her work. For Delfendahl, her creations flow from instinct, revealing parts of herself she had not consciously planned. ***"There's no planning, just a direct flow between my hands and the clay"***, she explains. This connection between artist and material is what makes ceramics a perfect medium for her: ***"With ceramics, I have truly found the perfect medium"***, she notes, adding ***"This balance between rawness and sophistication is what makes ceramics so compelling for me"***. Her work blends ancient and contemporary elements, not through intention but as a natural result of absorbing everything around her. ***"I am a cement mixer—I absorb everything I encounter"***, Delfendahl says, resulting in sculptures that carry vibrant stories, both mythical and modern. Humour also plays a key role in her work. ***"I love when it bursts forth as a surprise"***, she admits, finding joy in infusing her creations with unexpected whimsy.