

TO TRANSPOSE FORM TO EXTEND USE

Porcelain by Rita Filipe

This is a research project in the field of product design, concerning material culture, production and consumption, and the sustainability of Vista Alegre porcelain industry. It is an experimental work focused on an industrial reality with a strong manufacturing tradition at risk of extinction. Vista Alegre is suggested as a case study due to the importance of its historical legacy, its high-quality manufacturing production and great industrial sophistication which have survived alongside a historical tradition still very alive today.

The questions raised concern the longevity of objects in use - and not on the shelf, the renewal of its meaning through time, and its translation into new markets and today's cultural diversity. We focus this research mainly on two empirical and theoretical issues, meeting the functional and cultural aspects of objects. First, questioning the understanding of functionalism in a modernist perspective, perspectives in opposition to the contemporary view of versatility of cultures and its translation to contemporary practices. Then to study key concepts for the permanent renewal of meaning concerning different cultural contexts and values through time. This research aims to develop in-depth knowledge about the formal legacy of Vista Alegre; as well as the vernacular tradition of porcelain, historically strongly connected to Portugal; to rethink the traditional production of Vista Alegre through its formal 'translation' into contemporary cosmopolitan culture; to work from the conceptual duality 'form-use', proposing the revision of design methodology based on the duality 'form-function', in order to extend the use and lifetime of objects.

This project aims to develop pertinent and applicable projects, providing a new approach to tableware and homeware manufacture and industrial production; to design objects of cultural value for everyday use within the panorama of contemporary material life.

REFLECTIONS ON USE

Although the concept of functionalism is at the origin of design practice and on the emblematic relation form / function, or into motto 'design is about solving problems' arising mainly with the mechanization of production and the industry for mass production, if we go further in time we may find more interesting questions to rethink, and values or design conceptions that are closer to the contribution we want to give to the world in which we live in today, than those who have remained in the design principles over time. Because our relationship with nature, truth, utility, beautiful or the sublime, in the construction of artefacts, are still possible parameters of reflection about the material culture we produce today, and that can lead us in a more concerted way in the search for new, more harmonious and coherent design solutions.

REFLECTIONS ON FORM, CONTEMPORARY MATERIAL CULTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

This research suggests that the focus on cultural studies has shifted from the private sphere and 'groups of taste' to a more dynamic and diverse world marked by more mobility but also by the conflict management and social inequalities. And it has shifted from identity issues to issues proposed by a postcolonial cultural era and the search for new utopias or alternative systems that sketch images for a more tangible and collective future.



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TRANSPOR A FORMA, PROLONGAR O USO
Porcelanas de Rita Filipe

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RITA ALMEIDA FILIPE, Lisbon, Portugal. Graduated as tri-dimensional designer at Escola Superior de Belas Artes of Lisbon, 1991. Master in Product Design at the Architectural Faculty of Lisbon with the subject "Traditional Objects Transposition to Contemporaneity", 2007. PhD on Product Design by FAUL with the subject "Vista Alegre, to transpose form and prolong use", 2016. Works as free-lancer since 1990 on Product Design, Furniture Design, Interior Design and Urban Design at her own studio in Lisbon. Assistant at the Design Department of Faculdade de Arquitectura of Lisbon (since 1996/1997), and at the MA on Urban Design at Centro Português de Design (1999/2000). Professor on Design Department at Faculty of Architecture of Lisbon University (since 2016). Exclusive Editor of Design Cadernos at the portuguese magazine "Arquitectura e Vida" (feb.2000 until nov.2006). Several 1st prizes on national competitions, mainly on Urban Furniture. Her work as been presented on several design exhibitions in Portugal and abroad, namely Lisbon, O'Porto, Madrid, Barcelona, Berlim, Frankfurt, London, Paris, Milan, S Francisco and Saint-Louis du Senegal. Represented in MUDE – Museum of Design of Lisbon, Francisco Capelo collection.

**29 DE MARCH
> 31 DE MAY DE 2019**

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CONTENTS

17 pieces (prototypes)

OPENING TIME

From Monday to sunday | 10am–6pm
Closes on wednesdays and holidays

BILHETES

Bilhete de entrada do Palácio

www.ritafilepe.com



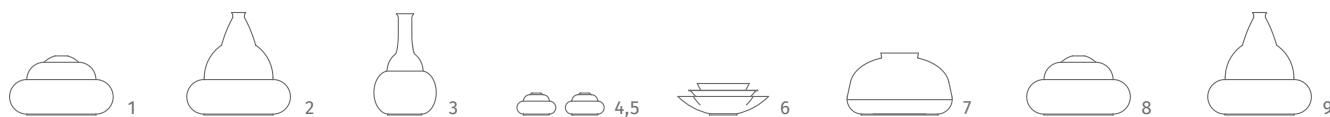
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SHOWCASE 1

1. Bottle 'Sevres' glazed with pistol in light grey, yellow moss and green jade.
2. Bottle 'Sevres' glazed with pistol in eggplant color, light gray and blue.
3. Covered bowl with chimney glazed with pistol in blue.
4. Covered bowl with celadon glaze and manual engraving.
5. Covered bowl glazed with pistol in moss yellow.
6. Scent diffuser with holes glazed with pistol in eggplant color
7. Scent diffuser with holes glazed with pistol in light gray.



SHOWCASE 2

1. Bowl with white glaze and black manual paint.
2. Bowl with chimney with celadon glaze and manual engraving.
3. Bottle 'Arabic' glazed with pistol in turquoise.
4. Scent diffuser without holes glazed with pistol in stone grey.
5. Scent diffuser without holes glazed with pistol in orange-tea.
6. 3 Bowls 'Lotus' glazed with pistol in grey, blue and jade.
7. Bowl and plate 'China' glazed with pistol in dark grey.
8. Covered bowl glazed with pistol in light grey.
9. Covered bowl with chimney glazed with pistol in orange-tea-colour and manual engraving.



SHOWCASE 3

1. Black plate with 3-lacquer serigraphy (from digital photography).
2. Black plated tray with Hanami 5 color serigraphy (from digital photography).
3. Bottle 'China' glazed with pistol in light grey, blue and dark gray.
4. Covered bowl glazed with pistol in light grey with manual engraving.
5. Models in white glaze.