

MARTIN BODILSEN KALDAHL

b. 1954, Denmark

Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl is a ceramic artist based in Copenhagen, Denmark. He has worked with a myriad of spatial themes and ornaments that frequently reoccur in his formal vocabulary and which emerge through a methodical, gradual, and experimental serial process. Notably, the knot as a shape has been a leitmotif offering possibilities for various sinuous, rhythmic cadences and abstract narratives. The hand-built architectonic works appear as “spatial drawings” — solid, twisting and turning through space. Kaldahl’s interest also lies in the potential of the object to make a direct emotional impact on the viewer. The motif is always clear in its simplicity and easily decoded while remaining open to interpretations.

Kaldahl first trained as a potter in the 1970s. In 1990, he graduated from the master’s program at the Royal College of Art in London. Kaldahl’s works are represented in several public and private collections including the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Danish Museum of Art & Design, the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo, and the Musée des Arts Decoratifs.

Kaldahl was associate professor from 2009–2020 at SuperFormLab at KADK, the Royal Danish Academy, School of Design. He is a co-initiator of the artist-run exhibition platform, Copenhagen Ceramics (CC). CC ran a gallery in Copenhagen from 2012 to 2014, showing 27 exhibitions. Since then, CC continues to curate shows, including the large international show of 23 artists *Ceramic Momentum — Staging the Object* at the CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art, Denmark, and most recently *Bend, Bubble, and Shine*, a show of nine Danish ceramic artists at Hostler Burrows’ galleries in New York and Los Angeles.