

MARIT TINGLEFF

b. 1954, Norway

A painter among ceramicists, Marit Tingleff is known for her gestural application of slips and oxides on monolithic coil-built clay slabs. Her works' surfaces are marked by turbid, scrawled lines and streaking rivulets of slip. The results are roiling, epistolary abstractions embossed with blunt linear markings and dark, circuitous contours. These vessels bear the personal qualities of handwriting or sketch, while in their massive proportions they also mimic the slow kinetics of natural forces etching landscape. These alternations of dense rhythmic pattern and areas of muted erosion are intrinsic to Tingleff's process; by applying manganese, cobalt, copper, and iron oxides over the earthenware clay body and selectively washing away sections, the artist leaves a ghostly imprint of her actions. As these traces accrete, they begin to stain the surface of the clay, creating an indeterminate yet complex visual inscription of her daily labor.

Whereas Tingleff's sculptural forms are substantial in scale and demonstrate a liberal handling of slip, they are rooted in the domestic and the traditions of fine porcelain crockery. Their edges retain the scalloped silhouettes and raised lips of dinnerware, producing a friction between delicacy and weight. In Tingleff's hands, the dish, which has so often served as a substrate for storytelling and iconography, is stripped down to its essentials as a kind of rough-hewn tablet. Her reserved color palette gives her work over to an abstract sensibility, whether in the sensation of color running over clay, streaked and spattered, or as a document of the prolonged action of making and unmaking. Process is recorded and preserved, mediating between order and entropy. Ultimately, Tingleff aims to enter into a dialogue with the material of each dish and vessel, remarking, "My painting process is a mixture of spontaneity and slow, patient building up of the surface."

Tingleff is a ceramic artist based in Hønefoss, Norway. She studied at the National College of Art and Design in Bergen, later becoming a professor and head of ceramics at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts from 2013–2016. Her work is held by a number of museums including the National Museum in Oslo, the Designmuseum Danmark, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. She has been awarded several public commissions including work for the Norwegian Government Representation Buildings in Oslo, Norway.