

SCULPTURE ([HTTP://WWW.THEPHOTOPHORE.COM/CATEGORY/SCULPTURE/](http://www.thephotophore.com/category/sculpture/))

Carolein Smit: transgressive beaut



In her **ceramic sculptures Carolein Smit** satirically plays with that unknown turning point when **beauty turns over in exuberance**, hate in love, alienation in elucidation, unresolved emotions in over-active sentiment.

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Smit borrows themes from **classic mythology** and **biblical tales**, such as greed, power and impotence, vanity, perishableness and death. Often her sculptures enclose elements like those we find in **vanitas**, such as **skulls, skeletons, small bones of animals**; all these elements symbolize our **temporary presence**, but, as always with Smit, she shows them with a touch of **irony**.

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Smit, a sculptor who uses sculptural forms instead of paint, employs **transgressive**

beauty that contradicts commonly held convictions about what makes something appealing. Her **fascination with contrasts**: the ugly but adorable, or the frightening fragile, provides a reminder about the **vulnerability and impermanence of life**, and **inevitability of death**.

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Smit, who studied in the Netherlands and currently lives in Belgium, is internationally known. Her sculptures form part of the **Victoria and Albert Museum** in London, the **Asante collection** in Switzerland, the **Thomas Olbricht collection** in Germany, the **Treger/Saint Silvestre Collection** in Portugal, **Fuled International Museum (FLICA)** in Fuping, China and many more.



Her artworks have been on show at the Bonnefantenmuseum (Maastricht), Art Base Maison Rouge (Paris), me Collectors Room (Berlin), the Museum Boijmans van Beuningen (Rotterdam) only to name a few. In 2010 she received a solo show at the Kunsthal (Rotterdam).

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