

MIRKA DRAPANIOTOU

ARTIST STATEMENT

Mirka Drapaniotou's ceramics inhabit the space between dualities, where fragility merges with strength and the echoes of tradition blend seamlessly with contemporary expression. Her practice is a deep engagement with the vulnerabilities of clay, a material that she coaxes into revealing its hidden beauty in both the precision of its shaping and the eloquent embrace of imperfection.

Drapaniotou often begins her creative journey by crafting flawless forms, only to reshape and reassemble them into intricate, symbiotic structures before firing. This transformation speaks to the delicate balance between control and surrender, as the forms evolve beyond their origins, embracing the fluidity of change. Drapaniotou's signature technique—piercing the clay with needle-like precision—becomes a meditative act, a way of testing the material's limits while turning it into a translucent veil that blurs the line between the tangible and the ethereal.

Her creations frequently take the shape of modular compositions, where individual elements nestle and interact with each other in a state of dynamic balance. These structures invite endless possibilities for arrangement, embodying a spirit of connection and interdependence, with each piece finding its role within a larger whole. Echoing the principles of Constructivism, Drapaniotou's work treats these forms as articulated structures that function together, constantly shifting in dialogue, where each component contributes to the overall unity.

Drapaniotou's embrace of imperfections infuses her work with a deeply human resonance. By deliberately introducing flaws into her pieces, she brings a sense of vulnerability and authenticity to her ceramics, drawing viewers closer through their shared experience of imperfection. This approach breaks down the barriers often associated with flawless creation, replacing them with a touch of warmth that speaks to the honesty of the artist's hand.

A thread of ritual runs through Drapaniotou's work, connecting her pieces to the long-standing traditions of Greek craftsmanship. Her ceramics serve as vessels of memory, echoing the ancient customs where everyday objects played a central role in communal and spiritual gatherings. Candelabras designed to hold beeswax candles, or vessel forms that invite the act of offering, transform these pieces into contemporary icons of ceremony, honoring the timeless rituals of connection and giving.

Influenced by the rich landscape of Greek culture, Drapaniotou draws inspiration from both nature and architectural forms, weaving these elements into her work. Her pieces reflect the stability of ancient structures while embracing the movement of natural patterns. With a palette of earthy tones and textures that evoke the warmth of the Mediterranean, she creates ceramics that resonate with a sense of place and identity, inviting touch and contemplation.

In her artistic journey, Drapaniotou skillfully combines her techniques and inspirations to create ceramics that tell a story of becoming. Each piece stands as a testament to the enduring qualities of craft and human experience, bridging the past with the present. Through her work, she invites us to find beauty not just in the finished object, but in the act of transformation itself, celebrating the richness of impermanence and the layers of cultural memory.