



BOUKE DE VRIES

(b. Utrecht, The Netherlands, lives and works in London)

Bouke de Vries is a Dutch-born ceramic artist currently living and working in London. He has lived a life that is much like his artwork — a mash-up of old-world skills that he uses to remix, reorder, and deliver overt contemporary satire and social commentary. The reverse of Ai Weiwei, who dramatically dropped the Han dynasty urn to make a point about the loss of history, de Vries puts the broken back together to re-contextualize the past.

Using his skills from art conservation, de Vries applies gold (kintsugi technique) to highlight the cracks of exploded ceramic matter to create new meaning and added value to shattered ceramic vessels and figurines, archeological finds, sunken treasure, and scavenged beach shards. Sad stories of accidents, disasters, mistakes, and loss become new triumphs. Using the skills of the conservator and reversible but miraculously strong adhesives, deVries actually does put Humpty Dumpty back together again.

With his skillful touch and biting wit, de Vries' shards come to life to deliver a humorous punch or social commentary. de Vries' career, like his work, is exploding.

De Vries studied at the Design Academy Eindhoven, and Central St Martin's, London. After working with John Galliano, Stephen Jones and Zandra Rhodes, he switched careers and studied ceramics conservation and restoration at West Dean College. De Vries has exhibited throughout the US and internationally. His recent installation, War and Pieces will make their US debut in early 2019 at the Montgomery of Museum of Art in Alabama and the Wadsworth Atheneum. His work can be found in numerous public collections including the National Museum of Norway, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Aberdeen Art Gallery in Aberdeen, Scotland among many others.



Cloud Centerpiece from War & Pieces, 2012, 18th, 19th, 20th & 21st c porcelain