

# Ceramics in the Company of Various Materials: “Peculiar Curios”, “Artistic Curios,” and “Meaningful Curios”

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Ceramics are among the quintessential utensils in daily life before the 20th century. In the 1950s, many ceramists started to work with clay to create products in all sorts of forms. Nowadays various modern materials and innovative techniques also influence ceramics, thus multimedia ceramic works have become the latest trend. While they seem to have gone beyond clay's limitations, these trendy works have also broken the barriers between materials. In consequence, ceramists begin to produce “Peculiar Curios”, “Artistic Curios,” and “Meaningful Curios” among their creations.

In the process of combining ceramics with unlike materials, some ceramists examine the characteristics of each material while others mimic the textures of wood, metal, bamboo and textile. Under the influence of contemporary art, some ceramists also incorporate ready-made into their works. These seemingly entirely different materials have developed an inseparable bond. The expansive scope and incredible tolerance of ceramics is the focus of modern Taiwanese ceramic art.

By observing the latest artistic trends, the museum has invited 49 ceramists to display their 140 works that exemplify these interesting ideas that go beyond the constraints of traditions.

## Peculiar Curios

The integration between two or more media in a comparative and contrasting manner broadens the scope of ceramic art. Furthermore, lacquer, glass, metal, wood and ready-made are united with ceramics in distinctive ways. These intricate details are what make the works such a feast for the eyes.

## Artistic Curios

The artist's mastery of the craft is a fundamental element of all good art. Multimedia artists need to therefore master a wide range of techniques. In addition to ceramics, they also need to familiarize themselves with lacquer, glass and metal. This is a challenge but also a chance to present their capabilities. The plasticity of contemporary ceramics means that it can mimic other materials, such as a piece of rusting iron, damp T-shirt, well-worn leather and bamboo basket. These examples of trompe-l'oeil represent the artistic achievements of the artists.

## Meaningful Curios

Whether we're talking about abstract or realistic artworks, ornaments or social commentary, multimedia-ceramic art have exceeded their inherent limitations. They can make realistic imitations of socks, leathers and baskets as well as teawares and vessels that resemble closely wood, bamboo and bronze. We gain a deeper appreciation for the beauty of the works and an understanding of the characters and artistry of ceramics. Afterwards, the viewer notices the amazing techniques the ceramists employ when working with these thought-provoking objects.

