

# IPEK KOTAN

## Artist Statement

Kotan's work stems from a **visceral need to create with her hands using natural materials** and a **love of the vessel form. Being one of the oldest objects ever made;** one of the most commonly found in archeological sites the world over and one of the most essential in daily life even after 30,000 years, **the vessel for her is an embodiment of timelessness, endurance and the universality of the human experience.**

**Generosity, openness, sharing, offering and protection are the core of its DNA, weaving it tightly into the better parts of the story of humankind. Ipek is interested in what the vessel symbolizes historically and metaphysically rather than its potential as a functional object and uses it as a canvas and a frame in which she explores sculptural, modern and minimalist expressions.**

Even the slightest adjustment to the angle or sharpness of a rim, the thickness or the contour of a wall, the relationship of textures and colors between the interior and the exterior can make a world of difference in the character of her pieces. **This exploration of nuances is the essence of her work.**

For the majority of her works she uses **Limoges porcelain** but also mixes her own porcelain as well. This is particularly necessary for the thicker and larger works which tend to crack more. **Using raw materials, she mixes her own glazes,** meaning she develops and experiments with **hundreds of new glazes every year** only to pick a handful to work with to further develop.

Depending on the type of porcelain she uses, the size and thickness of a piece, from the moment she starts to mix or knead the porcelain to the moment a piece is glazed, fired, sanded and finished, it can be anywhere from **a few weeks up to a few months.** Kotan creates **each piece on the wheel, without the help of any moulds. Each piece is hand-made and one-of-a-kind.**