

Gudhjem Museum in teamwork with Bornholms Kunstforening have decided to put on this exhibition in connection with the European Ceramic Context 2010 on Bornholm.

We have chosen to call it “A collector and his choice” in order to try and find out what is a collector and what criteria does he use when selecting and exhibiting examples from his collection.

The collector is Mr. Hans-Henrik Dyhr, and his collection is of a very extensive kind. Approximately 95% of the items collected have been created by Danish artists. He has been a collector for more than 50 years, and his collection is a classic one consisting of unika stoneware after 1950, such as jugs, bowls, cylindrical forms and vases.

He does not consider ceramics to be an investment.

At the beginning Mr. Dyhr bought ceramics to enrich his home with beauty. His drive was love of the beauty in every single object and the joy of possessing it, so he did not think of it as being the beginning of a collection.

Being asked why he began collecting, he tells us about a grandfather who was a woodcarver and for several years worked at the Royal Copenhagen as a modeller, and who was also capable of explaining to his grandchild the quality of things he bought for himself. Mr. Dyhr’s parents were interested in furniture of good quality and finally he had a very inspiring teacher in art history.

It is no surprise that his criteria for quality are primarily tactile merits and the influence of exciting glaze – as he has a Master’s degree in pharmacy.

Mr. Dyhr has an impressive knowledge of technical skills and materials and over the years he has visited innumerable Danish ceramic artists. Through discussions with these artists he has obtained a deeper understanding of the intentions and struggles of each ceramist to find the expression wanted.

For this exhibition Mr. Hans-Henrik Dyhr has chosen works made by teachers and ceramists graduated from the Jutland Art Academy, an approved institution of higher education, offering a 5-year educational programme in contemporary art.

The collection is registered and fully described. Mr. Dyhr owns nearly 300 books on ceramics and has ceramic archives – app. 50 filled-up drawers, the height of 10 cm – with e.g. CVs, catalogues, invitations to private views, newspaper reviews and photos.

In 1995 Mr. Dyhr became a co-founder of The Danish Society of Contemporary Ceramics whose chairman he has been for the last 7 years.

In 2009 the Académie Internationale de la Céramique in Switzerland welcomed Mr. Hans-Henrik Dyhr as a new individual member.