



GALLERY LIBBY SELLERS

PYRAMIDS OF MAKKUM
ROYAL TICHELAAR MAKKUM

10 May – 16 June 2012

Gallery Libby Sellers is pleased to present *Pyramids of Makkum*, a collection of sculptural tulip pyramids designed by **Hella Jongerius**, **Jurgen Bey**, **Studio Job** and **Alexander van Slobbe** and produced by the venerable ceramics company Royal Tichelaar Makkum.

Having undertaken a demanding restoration project on original 17th century flower pyramids at Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum, Royal Tichelaar Makkum engaged a handful of leading contemporary Dutch designers to embark on a challenging project of its own. Using a replica of the restored flower pyramid as their starting point, each of the designers was invited to create their own modern reinterpretation of the grandiose tower. The results display the remarkable virtuosity of the designers involved, while hinting at the surrealism and changing perception of the object's purpose.

Inspired by the porcelain imported from China by The Dutch East India Company, original 17th century flower pyramids were considered the finest example of Delftware for the period. These highly aristocratic vases reached the height of their popularity in 1690's and became synonymous with design patronage and technical expertise. Only a few of such vases have survived, some made for Mary Stuart, spouse to Dutch Stadtholder Prince William III, who in 1689 ascended the British throne. Royal Tichelaar Makkum's contemporary interpretations are an impressive presentation of five sublime artifacts (the traditional replica and the four interpretations) all made in the original Faience technique.

The presentation at Gallery Libby Sellers is timed to coincide with both Collect Contemporary Craft Fair and the Royal Horticultural Society's annual flower show in Chelsea. For Sellers, a long-time supporter and collaborator with Makkum, not only is the exhibition a chance to revisit the beauty of these unique and remarkable works, but also it is an opportunity to present the entire series in London for the first time.

Opening hours:

Tuesday – Friday, 11am – 6pm

Saturday, 11am – 4pm

Kindly supported by The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, London.



Kingdom of the Netherlands