



Designer ceramics from the Marwitz HB-Werkstätten at the Fuorisalone
Brera Design District April 17 – 22, 2018

Hedwig Bollhagen -The Spirit of Bauhaus
Galleria Lorenzo Vataro, Piazza San Simpliciano, Milano

Elegance of Design
Shop Display: Boutique Le Solferino, Via Solferino 2, Milano



Foto: Vases from the HB-Ritz series | © hedwig-bollhagen.com



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Designer ceramics from the Marwitz HB-Werkstätten at the Fuorisalone: Hedwig Bollhagen -The Spirit of Bauhaus

Having emerged directly from the Bauhaus, HB Workshop (HBW) is the only manufacturer that produces fine designer ceramics by incorporating and reinterpreting original forms. Handmade stoneware of the highest quality is manufactured in limited quantity at the workshops located in Marwitz on the outskirts of Berlin. HBW is ultimately known for the perfection of simplicity, allowing for a variety of combinations of shapes, design and décor.

At this year's Fuorisalone, the HB Workshops will be in the Lorenzo Vatalaro Gallery in Brera, the lively design district of Milan, presenting handmade tableware, home accessories and individual design classics from their new series HB Purum and HB Varius, as well as from the well-known HB Ritz series.

The centrepiece of the exhibition will be the magnificent HB Ritz series.

Elegance of Design / designing Elegance

A tradition which goes far beyond pure craftsmanship to create truly elegant design is something that links the great German ceramicist Hedwig Bollhagen with the well-known Italian shoe designer Silvia Bertolaja. Silvia Bertolaja has drawn inspiration from the eternal elegance of HB ceramics to create a strictly limited-edition collection of shoes devoted entirely to Hedwig Bollhagen and she will be presenting it to the Italian public for the first time during the Brera Design Week. The collection can be viewed, together with a selection of HB design classics, in the windows of her Via Solferino boutique, which has become famous through her avant garde creations. A rendez-vous of elegance and design.



HB-Collections



HB-Ritz | The original HB designs are applied with black engobe onto the bare clay pieces, refined with a sgraffito technique and finished off with a transparent glaze. This allows patterns to be created which are immediately recognisable, revealing the extraordinary talent of Hedwig Bollhagen. Her sgraffito designs create a feeling of tension on the surface. They support the shape, yet sometimes use an unexpected asymmetric line to bring it out of balance and create an element of resonance. Hedwig Bollhagen first started developing her 'Ritz' designs in the 1930s.



HB-Purum | HB-Purum concentrates on the pure form and the unaltered raw material, which only receives a transparent glaze. Through this, HB-Purum is continuing in the tradition of Hedwig Bollhagen, whose work always prioritised form and function over decoration, in keeping with the principles of Bauhaus.



HB-Varius | The combination of coloured engobes and coloured glazes creates new surface structures of an extraordinary depth and brilliance on the pieces of the HB-Varius series, structures that had previously not been possible using conventional decorative forms. This special technique allows the complexity of the material itself to come into the foreground.



History of the HB-Werkstätten



Hedwig Bollhagen founded the HB Workshop for Ceramics in 1934, one year after the last Bauhaus enclave was forced to close by the National Socialists. By the time she died in 2001, she had used her sense of style, her free spirit, diligence and courage to transform the workshop into an incomparable, award-winning manufactory and make it a focal point of the creative avant-garde. Well-known personalities of the Weimar Bauhaus movement, such as Werner Burri, Theodor Bogler and Charles Crodel, an artist belonging to the Deutscher Werkbund (German Association of Craftsmen) and denounced by the Nazis, found here a place where they could work and they contributed to the style, renown and historical significance of the HB Workshop. Since 2015, the estate of Hedwig Bollhagen has been counted as part of Germany's national treasure, some of the country's most historically valuable works of arts.

Since 2013, a young team has devoted itself to preserving this heritage and making it accessible to a worldwide public in contemporary variations. They have recovered rare treasure: old, forgotten original forms, trial specimens and unused design templates which are being developed for HBW by contemporary designers and are being realised by qualified ceramicists, some of whom were trained by Hedwig Bollhagen herself.



Hedwig Bollhagen – The Founder



Hedwig Bollhagen (1907 – 2001) lived and breathed ceramics. Inspired by the dainty dollhouse china of her childhood, Bollhagen, a Hannover native, began her ceramics training at a renowned technical college in Höhr-Grenzhausen in 1925. It took just five semesters for the talented artist to gain the attention of Dr Hermann Harkort, who, as owner of the Velten Vordamm ceramics workshop near Berlin, promptly installed her as supervisor in his painting division. The following four years would form the basis for Bollhagen's later works, both in a technical and artistic sense. In this time, she developed a keen eye for form, decoration and quality, influenced, among others, by celebrated Bauhaus-adherents Theodor Bogler and Werner

Burri. Following Harkort's insolvency in 1931, Bollhagen took up various positions in pottery factories and companies, among them at Karlsruhe's Majolika Manufaktur, where the ceramicist undertook her first experimentations in the elaborate sgraffito-ritz technique. In 1934, Bollhagen founded the HB Workshop for Ceramics in Marwitz, just northeast of Berlin. What would follow would be an unrivalled career as one of the greatest designers in modern German history.

Selected awards and exhibitions:

- 1937* – Gold medal world exhibition in Paris
- 1938* – Bronze medal internationale art and crafts exhibition Berlin
- 1957* – Gold medal, Munich
- 1958* – Certificate of honor world exhibition in Brussels
- 1962* – Goldmedal in Prag
- 1966* – Theodor-Fontane-Preis
- 1991* – Exhibition of honor ANTIQUA in Berlin
- 1992* – Kulturpreis Landkreises Oberhavel
- 1994* – Exhibition of honor City of Berlin
- 1996* – Order of merit City of Berlin
- 1997* – Order of merit Federale Republic of Germany
- 2006* – Elected one of Germany's top designers by the Goethe Institute
- 2008* – Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte
- 2008* – Keramik Keramik-Museum Bürgel
- 2015* – Opening Museum Hedwig Bollhagen in Velten
- 2015* – Estate HB becomes National Treasure



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HB-Werkstätten

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