

September 10, 2019

**Meşher – A New Exhibition Space in Istanbul**  
**Inaugural Exhibition**  
**“Beyond the Vessel”**  
September 13 – December 22, 2019

**Meşher**, a new exhibition space initiated by the Vehbi Koç Foundation, opens with its inaugural exhibition “Beyond the Vessel: Myths, Legends, and Fables in Contemporary Ceramics around Europe.”

Aiming to establish an interdisciplinary approach, **Meşher** advocates the creation of new dialogues across time and cultures, not only through its exhibitions but also its comprehensive array of parallel activities such as publications, workshops, and conferences. The exhibitions are mainly conceptualized and produced in-house through a network of collaborations with national and international experts and institutions, thus providing a platform of exchange and inspiration in Turkey and abroad.

**Meşher’s** first exhibition, “Beyond the Vessel: Myths, Legends, and Fables in Contemporary Ceramics around Europe” demonstrates how ancient myths have echoed down through generations, and now form an exciting new wave of contemporary art inspired by the human characteristics and archetypes they represent. It focuses on how clay, often used simply to manufacture vessels and other utilitarian objects, holds the potential of being one of the most refined, yet powerful materials in the hands of artists with exceptional skill and vision, expressing human emotion in the greatest degree of subtlety.

Prepared in collaboration with Messums Wiltshire and curated by Catherine Milner and Károly Aliotti, the exhibition presents works by 13 artists, each of whom, in their distinctive way, show the enduring potency of historic narratives manifested in the material of clay. **Meşher**, takes its name from the Ottoman Turkish word meaning exhibition space, and is located in a historic building, which formerly housed Arter at the very center of Istanbul. In the course of the exhibition, **Meşher** will also organize parallel events, artist talks, and workshops.

## Artists

Sam Bakewell, Bertozzi & Casoni, Vivian van Blerk, Christie Brown, Phoebe Cummings, Bouke de Vries, Malene Hartmann Rasmussen, Klara Kristalova, Elsa Sahal, Kim Simonsson, Carolein Smit, Jørgen Haugen Sørensen, Hugo Wilson

## Publication

In conjunction with the opening, **Meşher** publishes an exhibition catalogue including articles written by Catherine Milner, the exhibition's co-curator from Messums Wiltshire, Paul Greenhalgh, Director of Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts at the University of East Anglia, and Glen R. Brown, Professor of Art History at Kansas State University. Designed by Ayşe Bozkurt, the publication features photographs by Sylvain Deleu and Hadiye Cangökçe.

## Opening Hours

Tuesday – Sunday 11.00 – 19.00

Long Friday 11.00 – 20.00

Free Admission

## Meşher | Exhibition Space

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