



## Exhibition Press Release

### **Ceramica Cumella: Shaping Ideas**

An Exhibition Curated by Mis-Architecture at the Architectural Association  
School of Architecture  
29 September – 27 October 2012, AA Gallery

**Private view** Friday 28 September 2012, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Open to the public from Saturday 29 September to Saturday 27 October 2012

**Opening times** Monday to Friday 10am – 7pm; Saturday 10am – 3pm

### ***Ceramica Cumella: Shaping Ideas***

The artistic and scientific innovations emerging from the studio of Toni Cumella reveal that ceramics are highly versatile 21st century materials. Focusing on the four main fabrication processes in use at Ceramica Cumella – extruding, casting, pressing and revolving – *Shaping Ideas* presents the work of Toni Cumella and the application of his ceramics in some of contemporary architecture's most significant projects.

Born in 1951, the son of ceramicist Antoni Cumella, Toni Cumella studied industrial engineering at Barcelona University before dedicating himself entirely to ceramics in 1970. After the death of his father in 1985 Cumella redirected the focus of the studio Ceramica Cumella specifically towards the development of architectural projects and large-scale artworks. Between 1989 and 1992 the studio undertook its first two major architectural commissions: the restoration of Gaudi's *Casa Batlló* (with architect Josep Botey) and the restoration of Gaudi's *Parc Güell* (with architects Elies Torres & Martinez Lapena), which firmly established Ceramica Cumella as a centre of expertise in the field.

Subsequent collaborations developed at the studio include Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue's *Park Diagonal Mar* and *Parc Dels Colors* followed by the *Santa Caterina Market* in 2005, Jean Nouvel's *Placa Sardana*, Alejandro Zaera-Polo's *Spanish Pavilion* at Expo 2005, the *Law Courts* in Terrassa and the *Catalan Police Headquarters* in El Vendrell with Josep Botey, and Enric Ruiz-Geli's *Villa Nurbs* in 2009. Currently underway at the studio are new projects with Renzo Piano, Kengo Kuma and Amanda Levete.

Toni Cumella has a close relationship with the AA. He has produced some of his most outstanding work with current and former AA tutors and graduates, and for the last 4 years he has held regular workshops with Intermediate Unit 9.

Curated by Mis-Architecture (Christopher Pierce + Chris Matthews) with AA Exhibitions.

#### Images:

A selection of Press Images can be downloaded from

[http://www.aaschool.ac.uk/downloads/press\\_releases/press\\_images/cumella.zip](http://www.aaschool.ac.uk/downloads/press_releases/press_images/cumella.zip)

For further details contact:

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## Notes:

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Toni Cumella i Vendrell is born in Granollers, on December 2nd, 1951.  
He lives with his father, ceramist Antoni Cumella, at the family workshop.

- 1968 – He studies industrial engineering at Barcelona University.
- 1970 – He studies photography at the Catalanian Institute of Photographic Studies.
- 1970 – Complete dedication to ceramic production.
- 1985 – After his father's death, he directs the familiar workshop to the production of ceramics for architecture
- 1987 – He establishes contact with architecture studio PER. Cristian Cirici, Pep Bonet, Oscar Tusquets, Steegman and Lluís Clotet. Starting point for collaboration with many other architects.
- 1989 – Restoration of Gaudí's casa Batlló together with architect Josep Maria Botey.
- 1992 – Restoration of Gaudí's Parc Güell, with Elies Torres y Martinez Lapeña.
- 1994 – Restoration of Hospital de Sant Pau, together with architect Santi Prats.
- 1998 – Restoration of La Farinera in Girona, work of Rafael Masó, with architect Arcadi Pla.
- 1999 – Restoration of La Ricarda, work of Antoni Bonet Castellana, together with Jordi Roig and Fernando Alvarez.
- 2002 – Posthumous work of architect Enric Miralles. Parc dels colors (Park of colours) in Mollet and Diagonal Mar Park in Barcelona.
- 2003-2004 – Santa Caterina Market in Barcelona, work of Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue.
- 2004-2010 – Collaboration with the Ceramics Chair of the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya.
- 2005 – Spanish Pavilion at Aichi Expo (Japan), work of Alejandro Zaera-Polo.
- 2006 – Apartment block in Baracaldo (Vizcaya). José Ignacio Linazasoro arch.
- 2007 – Auditorium in Santa Cruz de la zarza, (Toledo). Ángel Fernández Alba arch.
- 2007 – Avenue Alameda de Hércules, Sevilla. Elies Torres – Martinez Lapeña, archts.
- 2007 – Exhibition at the COAC (Official Architects Association's building), Barcelona.
- 2007 – Restoration of sculpture "Peix damunt la platja" (Fish on the beach) of Leandre Cristòfol; exhibition in Lleida.
- 2007 – Spanish Pavilion Expo '08 in Zaragoza. Patxi Mangado arch.
- 2007 – Congress Palace, Zaragoza. Nieto – Sobejano archts.
- 2007 – Sardana Square, Barcelona. Atelier Jean Nouvel, arch.
- 2008 – Law Court building in Terrassa, (Barcelona). JM Botey arch.
- 2008 – Apartment block in Immaculada St., Barcelona. Juan Trias de Bes, arch.
- 2008 – Building "El Gra", Granollers, (Barcelona).
- 2008 – Apartment block in Casp St., Barcelona. Jaume Bach, arch.
- 2008 – Catalan Police Mossos d'Esquadra headquarters in El Vendrell, (Tarragona). Josep M<sup>a</sup> Botey arch.
- 2009 – Law Court building in Granollers (Barcelona). Buxadé, arch.
- 2009 – Private house in Sant Cugat, (Barcelona). Carlos Ferrater, arch.
- 2009 – VPO (Controlled Rent Housing) apartment block in Terrassa, (Barcelona). Enric Sòria,

arch.

2009 – Apartment block in Barcelona. Lluís Cantalops, arch.

2009 – Villa Nurbs, Girona. Enric Ruiz Geli, arch. – Intervention of artist Frederic Amat.

2009 – Railway stations, Bon Pastor and Onze de Setembre, line 9 of metropolitan underground railway of Barcelona. Tomás Morató arch.

2009 – Hotel Mandarin's terrace in Barcelona – Carlos Ferrater, Beth Figueras, arch.

2010 – 2011- 2012 Workshop with students of Architectural Association School of London

2010 – Prototype lattice for Tránsitos in Cevisama Exhibition (Valencia). Patxi Mangado arch.

2010 – C.E.I.P. Cornellà, Primary School in Cornellà (Barcelona). Umbert Costa arch.

2010 – Wall at Tirant lo Blanc square, in Gandia, (Valencia). Juan Navarro Baldeweg arch.

2010 – La Nucía building, Murcia. Cristalzoo archts.

2010 – Bridge over Urumea river in San Sebastián. Collaboration with Manu Muniateguiandikoetxea

2010 – Pluja de Llàgrimes, (Teardrops rain) Permanent installation at the Teatre Lliure de Gràcia in Barcelona. Collaboration with Frederic Amat.

2010 – Hotel OHLA, Barcelona. Mur d'ulls (Eyes wall) Permanent installation of Frederic Amat.

2010-2011 – COAM, Official Architects Association building in Madrid. Gonzalo Moure arch.

2010-2011 – Education Faculty building of Granada University. Ramón Fernández-Alonso arch.

2011 – Secular Altarpiece, exhibition at the MACBA Chapel, in Barcelona. Collaboration with Pep Duran, artist and stage designer.

2011 – Oceanário de Lisboa. Pedro Campos Costa arch.

2011 – Infant University building in Gandia, (Valencia). Paredes-Pedrosa archts.

2011 – Local Public Record Office building, Sta. Coloma de Farners, Girona. BOPBAA archts.

2012 – Hotel Pallars, Barcelona, Cirici & Bassó Archit.

2012 – Bages University Foundation, Manresa (Bcn), Manel Parés.

2012 – National headquarters of Banco Popular in Madrid. Ayala archts.

2012 – Mas Tinell oenotourism center, Vilafranca del Penedès, Bcn, GCA Arch.

2012 – Salon de la Place Jacquard, St. Etienne (France), AWP Arch.

2012 – Bench for the London Design Festival, Amanda Levete Arch.

Under development:

V & A Café Roof and Courtyard Areas, London, Amanda Levete Arch.

Ciudad de la Energía, Soria, Tuñón y Mansilla arch.

Melilla Town Market, Angel Verdasco arch.

Botín Art Center, Santander, Renzo Piano arch.

elBulli Foundation, Cala Montjoi, Roses, (Girona), Enric Ruiz Geli arch.