

Paola Paronetto



Photography: Clap Collective.



‘Everything I do is an expression of who I am; what I feel and what I love are embodied in ceramics.’

‘After many years working and experimenting with traditional clay techniques, I decided to completely abandon the conventional approach and create more innovative and dynamic forms: the Cartocci. For this, I chose paper clay, a flexible and revolutionary medium that allowed me to express myself, pursuing my imagination, free of stereotypes and in harmony with my most intimate feelings.

The forms and textures are fluid, not rigid and transmit the feeling of movement. “Imperfections” are embraced as something that provides character and authenticity, and each piece forms part of a family of objects as I rarely stand them alone.

The most special collection for me is the *Bottles Collection*. They were my first creation using paper clay, and I feel a real affinity with them.

I am very busy with my work and have very little time for other interests but I love spending time with my family, in whatever form that may take and when I have some quiet time for me I lose myself in a book.’



‘Mistakes are always interesting. When we make them, they always have a price, but then, they spur you on to improve and learn. Sometimes, pleasant and unexpected surprises arise from mistakes.’

‘Creativity and being creative is not a conscious thought process for me. It’s just how I feel, what I experience, what I see and then what I feel like doing. It’s very spontaneous. Since as long as I can remember, this is me. I’ve never had to search for ideas. I express what I see and what I feel: it’s something natural.

I’m inspired by nature and human connections: I see ceramics as animated objects, entities that dialogue with each other, just as in nature and between people.

Ideas come; I have never had to look for them. I have a thought or a feeling and I will perhaps draw something and come back to it at another time. I have a book full of unrealised creations which I look at from time to time. When I have a problem or challenge in realising a specific piece that I’m working on, I keep working until I overcome it. I don’t give up. There’s always a way. Creative blocks are something I’ve never experienced. I realise there are periods when I’m “less creative”, but it’s always because I’m so busy with daily life and don’t have a lot of time, but once I’m able to focus on my work again, I pick up where I left off.’

‘The secret to being a good ceramicist is passion, curiosity and the determination to overcome obstacles you encounter along the way.’



