

## NOT JUST A CUP

I have been a ceramicist since 1975, creating many unique cups. In 1984, I wrote for the Norwegian craft magazine, Kunsthåndverk, about two meetings with history which were decisive for my relationship with this object:

*Ceramics of the Minoens - a shock*

*The Minoens lived on Crete three to four thousand years ago. Their ceramicists did not spare themselves. They used all nuances and stretched all possibilities both in small and large scale. They drew patterns in all directions, adding layers and scraping them off. There was no standardizing and no thought-stopping rationality. If you are to see their work in museum showcases today, your thoughts may fly and your mind may be filled with surprises like an unknown freedom, so beautiful it can make you completely dizzy.*

*Ceramics of the Nordic Iron Age - in many ways the contrast of the Minoens. Variations over a few simple and clear shapes, lines and dots scratched and imprinted in different ways. No colors, strict forms. So beautiful in dignity, strength, weight.*

What do I think now, in 2011? The shock from these museum meetings has naturally subdued. I have seen more...new impressions and inspiration...and I am not making cups for the time being. But it still surprises me that just one cup in a museum showcase, made so far from our own time and way of living, can radiate such power and outspokenness.

Nina Malterud

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Stoneware, h.7cm, wood and soda fired, 1300° C