

Lara Erel

« First Settlement » (2017)

Ceramic, glass, brick and sand installation I build cities. Always. Different fragments are assembled into cityscapes, mostly with drawings and prints. But, for a little while now, I have been building in volume with clay. I combine various architectonic elements until a new place physically emerges.

I am drawn to ceramic because of the gesture of the hand and body involved and because of the long history of the material. Archeological artifacts from ceramics are important traces of our ancestors' ways of living.

I am fascinated by objects and the reasons why they have been conceived. Some of them have a practical function, as a bowl with holes (a lamp) and other with more spiritual and intricate meanings, for instance the small clay figures, like little totems, with which the deceaseds were buried. I consider each sculpture I make, as a totem, whose meaning and function are mysterious to me too; as evidences of my memory, to be read on each individual piece or as a whole, depicting a specific period of my life.

This year, I have discovered glass as a new material. I can use it as the exterior layer for ceramic, to vary colors and shine. But here, the glass pieces are independent objects. The dialogue finds place between them and the clay items.

This accumulated crowd gets settled for the first time here in Vilnius.