

Nanopublication – Daring Verticality and Material Risk in Ceramic Construction

by Arnaud Quercy · The Cat Of Istanbul – Variations 2 · 2023



CLAIM 2: DARING VERTICALITY AND MATERIAL RISK IN CERAMIC CONSTRUCTION

I push ceramic's structural limits through extreme verticality and thinness – 40cm height built on a narrow 16cm base, angular protrusions extending into space, thin walls that risk collapse during firing. These daring formal choices mirror the [1] cat's own precarious grace, balancing on ledges and walls throughout Istanbul. The wax patina with pigments adds surface depth and warmth to the terracotta, evoking the earthy tones of the city's aged stone and brick.

CONTEXT

Ceramic imposes severe constraints on vertical construction. Clay's weight, shrinkage during drying, and thermal stress during firing all conspire against tall, thin forms. The piece measures 40cm in height but only 16cm at the base – a precarious ratio that required careful construction and risk acceptance.

I built the form with thin walls to maintain lightness while achieving height, knowing that each angular protrusion – the ears, the tail element rising vertically, the geometric projections – increased the probability of structural failure during firing. This technical risk was not arbitrary but intentional: the formal precariousness mirrors the cats' physical behavior throughout Istanbul, where they perch on narrow ledges, balance on railings, and navigate vertical surfaces with apparent ease.

The surface treatment uses wax patina with pigments over terracotta, creating warmth and depth that evokes Istanbul's aged stone and weathered brick. This finishing technique, learned in Isis Gondoin [2]'s workshop at Profils et Reliefs, allows subtle color variation across the geometric facets, emphasizing the play between light and shadow on angular surfaces.

The piece was created in 2023 and is part of the "Nature [3] in the City" collection, which documents observations of urban wildlife where the boundary between natural and built environments becomes productively ambiguous.

REFERENCES

- [1] Arnaud Quercy (2023). The Cat Of Istanbul – Variations 2 – Catalog raisonné. <https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0460.html>
- [2] Profils et Reliefs, ceramic workshop under master Isis Gondoin, Paris. [URL to be added]
- [3] "Nature in the City" collection documentation [internal reference – URL to be added]

WHERE THIS WORK LIVES

Series: The Cat Of Istanbul

Collection: Nature in the city

Technique: Ceramic

EXHIBITIONS

Transcendence – World Premiere of Ephemera Arts (2023-10-29
→ 2023-11-15, Koblenzer Kunstverein e.V., Koblenz)

OTHER WORKS IN THIS SERIES

The Cat Of Istanbul – Variations 1
The Cat Of Istanbul – Variations 4
The Cat Of Istanbul – Variations 4
The Cat Of Istanbul – Variations 3
A Cat – Naive cubism research

DOCUMENTED AT

Catalogue Raisonné – The Cat Of Istanbul – Variations 2 –
The Cat of Istanbul – Variations 2 – Cubist Ceramic
Sculpture – Arnaud Quercy (2023)
Gallery – The Cat Of Istanbul – Variations 2
Nanopublication – The Cat Of Istanbul – Variations 2 –
Digital Image Documentation –
aqc0460_img_full_1536x1024_webp
Nanopublication – The Cat Of Istanbul – Variations 2 –
Physical Specifications

Nanopublication — The Cat Of Istanbul — Variations 2 —
Transliterating Urban-Feline Symbiosis Through Form

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

cubist ceramic sculpture	Istanbul street cats
Nature in the City collection	terracotta with wax patina
urban wildlife sculpture	architectural geometry
vertical ceramic sculpture	contemporary ceramic art
Arnaud Quercy sculpture	feline architectural form

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	practitioner knowledge
Methodology	ceramic sculpture
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

ac9901861d981d4bcf22900ad2e2045d4e73e17268a125e98a9292fbb8c5f71d

Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0
International (CC BY 4.0)

Artist	Arnaud Quercy
Date	2023
Collection	Nature in the city
Certificate	20231231-0047
Asset code	AQC0460
Identifier	NAN-CTX000114
Version	1
Published	2026-02-11

ISSN: [pending — Library of Congress]

© 2026 Multimodal Institute

Published by Art Quam Anima Publishing New York,
an imprint of AQA PUBLISHING LLCc/o Northwest Registered Agent, 418 Broadway Ste N
Albany, NY 12207, USA
+1 917-764-5470

publishing.artquamanima.com

Last updated: 2026-06-11

Persistent URI: <https://multimodal.institute/en/nanopubs/2026/02/AQC0460-daring-verticality-and-material-risk-in-ceramic-construction.pdf>