

Nanopublication – Ancestral Ceramic Techniques – Traditional Materials and Minimalist Methods

by Arnaud Quercy [2] · A Cat – Naive cubism research · 2024



CLAIM 2: ANCESTRAL CERAMIC TECHNIQUES – TRADITIONAL MATERIALS AND MINIMALIST METHODS

I used ancestral ceramic [4] techniques: terre petite charlotte (grogged clay) for construction, brou de noix (walnut stain) for surface coloration, cire d'abeille (beeswax) for protective finish. These are traditional materials and methods, minimalist in approach.

CONTEXT

The material choices reflect traditional pottery and sculpture practices, not contemporary industrial ceramic approaches. Each material serves clear function without technological complication.

Terre petite charlotte is clay body with fine grog (chamotte) – small particles of pre-fired clay mixed into raw clay. The grog provides structural integrity during forming and firing, reduces shrinkage, adds surface texture. This is foundational ceramic technique, used for millennia. The clay builds stable forms without collapsing under their own weight.

Brou de noix (walnut stain) provides the brown-orange surface coloration visible on portions of the sculpture. Walnut hulls steeped in water produce natural brown dye, traditional furniture and wood stain also applied to unglazed ceramics. The stain penetrates porous fired clay surface, creating warm earth tones. This avoids glaze (which would require second firing) – simpler, more direct.

Cire d'abeille (beeswax) seals and protects the surface. Applied after firing and staining, the wax fills clay porosity, provides subtle sheen, protects from moisture and handling. Traditional sculpture finish, renewable material, requires only heat to apply.

Two distinct clay bodies create the color contrast – one receiving walnut stain (warm tones), one remaining natural fired clay color (darker gray-blue). The technique is straightforward construction: form the volumes, fire, apply surface treatments.

This approach emphasizes material directness and technical simplicity. No glazes, no complex surface treatments, no industrial materials. Clay, fire, walnut, wax. Ancestral methods, minimalist execution.

Work created in 2024 at Profils et Reliefs workshop, Paris, under master ceramicist Isis Gondoin [3].

REFERENCES

[1] Arnaud Quercy (2024). A Cat – Naive cubism research – Catalog raisonné. <https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0572.html>

[2] Quercy, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-2662-7790>

[3] Quercy, A. (2024). A Cat – Naive cubism research (AQC0572) – Catalog Entry. https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2024/04/a-cat-naive-cubism-research_6eo.html

[4] Profils et Reliefs – Ceramic workshop, Paris. Master: Isis Gondoin.

[5] Quercy, A. (2025). Physical Specifications – AQC0572. <https://multimodal.institute/en/nanopubs/2025/12/AQC0572-physical-specifications.html>

[6] Quercy, A. (2025). Digital Image Documentation – aqc0572_img_full_2686x4029_webp. <https://multimodal.institute/en/nanopubs/2025/12/AQC0572-physical-specifications.html>

WHERE THIS WORK LIVES

Series: The Cat Of Istanbul
Collection: Nature in the city
Technique: Ceramic

EXHIBITIONS

Rencontres au Marché de la Création (2024-04-23 → 2024-12-31, Marché de la Création – Paris Montparnasse, Paris)

Salon d'art contemporain - Metamorphose, Paris (2024-12-26 → 2025-01-05, Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris)

Permanent Collection 2025 - Resonance in Form (2025-01-01 → 2025-12-31, arnaudquercy.art, Paris)

Paris Studio Visit (2025-02-18 → 2025-02-18, Artist's Studio, Paris)

Marché d'Art Contemporain - Seine Port (2025-05-17 → 2025-05-17, MAC Seine-Port, Seine-Port)

Nuit des Artistes, St Germain-en-Laye, France (2025-05-24 → 2025-05-24, La Nuit des Artistes, Saint-Germain-en-Laye)

Marché de l'Art de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 17ème édition - France (2025-06-14 → 2025-06-14, Marché de l'Art, Saint-Germain-en-Laye)

Salon d'art contemporain - Metamorphose 2025-2026, Paris (2025-12-26 → 2026-01-04, Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris)

Art Quam Anima - Pre-opening (2026-01-31 → 2026-02-28, Art Quam Anima, Paris)

Through the Aperture — Research on Harmony (2026-03-09 → 2026-04-30, Art Quam Anima, Paris)

OTHER WORKS IN THIS SERIES

The Cat Of Istanbul - Variations 1

The Cat Of Istanbul - Variations 4

The Cat Of Istanbul - Variations 2

The Cat Of Istanbul - Variations 4

The Cat Of Istanbul - Variations 3

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Gallery — A Cat - Naive cubism research

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Nanopublication — A Cat - Naive cubism research — Physical Specifications

Nanopublication — A Cat - Naive cubism research — Geometric Reduction - Cat Form through Cubist and Minimalist Simplification

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

naive cubism

geometric reduction

ceramic sculpture

feline form

Nature in the city

contemporary ceramics

geometric abstraction

animal forms

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	first person account
Methodology	traditional craft
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

38c3fcee4cc3c61e2d5910360c4822e1399ad5c725a97d013246d8d04efc3ad

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Artist Arnaud Quercy

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Collection Nature in the city

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