

AQC0460

# Nanopublication — Daring Verticality and Material Risk in Ceramic Construction

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



TECHNICAL METHODOLOGY FIRST PERSON PRACTITIONER

KNOWLEDGE CERAMIC SCULPTURE HIGH

## Daring Verticality and Material Risk in Ceramic Construction

I push ceramic [2]'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 [5]'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 [6] 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>  
<https://arnaudquercy.art/fr/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0460.html>
- [2] **Medium:** Ceramic with wax patina and pigments
- [3] **Author:** Arnaud Quercy
- [4] **Artwork:** The Cat of Istanbul - Variations 2
- [5] Profils et Reliefs, ceramic workshop under master Isis Gondoin, Paris. [URL to be added]
- [6] "Nature in the City" collection documentation [internal reference - URL to be added]
- [7] **Collection:** Nature in the City
- [8] **Document Metadata**
- [9] **Asset Code:** AQC0460
- [10] **Dimensions:** 40 x 16 x 16 cm
- [11] **Weight:** 1.8 kg
- [12] **Date:** 2023
- [13] **Status:** Sold (2024)
- [14] **Documentation Date:** February 11, 2026
- [15] **Version:** 1.0

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<b>Artist</b>	Arnaud Quercy
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