

**Press pack**

**November 2015**

**Jürgen Partenheimer**

**Calliope**

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENEVA, 20 NOVEMBER 2015 – 20 MARCH 2016

**PRESS VISIT**

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 3PM, WITH THE ARTIST AND THE CURATOR

**EXHIBITION PREVIEW**

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7PM, IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ARTIST

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# Jürgen Partenheimer

## Calliope

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*It appears that abstract language as an image is part of our cognitive and intuitive perception, but what about the abstract image as language, as significant, perceptible form? (Jürgen Partenheimer)*

**Geneva, October 2015 - A key figure of Abstract Minimalism, the internationally renowned German artist Jürgen Partenheimer (b.1947), developed a series of twenty-one unique pieces in 2011-2012 at the request of the Nymphenburg porcelain factory, based on three forms of Vessels, with seven different versions of each being produced. The project was named Calliope in reference to the muse of epic poetry. The complete series is presented in its entirety for the first time at the Musée Ariana, together with graphic works by the artist.**

During the 20th century, a number of art movements in Europe, the United States and Japan aimed to break down the traditional distinctions between the so-called major and applied arts. The ancient material of ceramics found itself in the spotlight, redeemed from its status as mere utilitarian ware. Many artists such as Pablo Picasso in Vallauris, Joan Miró in Barcelona and Lucio Fontana in Albissola, with the assistance of experienced ceramists, used clay with a newfound freedom.

At the same time, industry was researching ways to combine functionality and aesthetics in terms of both form and decoration. For this purpose, most ceramic factories set up art studios or called on artists to revitalize their ceramic production, adversely impacted by changes in the art of the table over the course of the century. These artistic collaborations were often limited to the development of a new shape or the decoration of an existing model, without further exploration of the specific characteristics and possibilities of the material or the manufacturing process. Very few artists took the time to develop a real interest in this rich and complex medium.

In this respect, the partnership between Jürgen Partenheimer and the Nymphenburg porcelain factory differs from a simple artistic collaboration in more ways than one. In 2011, when he began his project at Nymphenburg, it was once again the vessel, the *contenant* in French or *das Gefäß* in German, which formed the basis of his research, linking contemporary creation to an archaic and archetypal ceramic form. What's more, Partenheimer respects, in the three forms he has developed, the traditional codes of the various component parts of the vase that refer metaphorically to the human body: foot, belly, neck and lip. Whereas in sculpture, material is subtracted to reveal the shape, ceramics proceeds by the addition of damp clay, which gradually evolves around a central and essential void. Although Partenheimer's *Vessels* belong to the realm of abstract sculpture, they still refer directly to the vase, a utilitarian object that is futile and ornamental when standing in the middle of a room or holding flowers, but which is also essential and perennial, a vessel of life through the water it contains, and of death, when it becomes a funeral urn. This inner emptiness is fundamental, both a vector and a repository of meaning. In naming this series *Calliope*, Partenheimer gives it an epic and poetic dimension that nurtures this inner emptiness.

Industrial production prefers the casting technique for shaping ceramic wares, as this guarantees total consistency and accuracy. For Partenheimer, the perfectly smooth, dehumanized surface of cast porcelain does not satisfy his requirements. He favours a return to throwing on the potter's wheel, which implies direct contact with the clay, an intimate relationship between it and the maker's hands that gently and with determination accompany the creation of the form.

*"The imprints of hands, their determining and meticulous exploratory decisions, are the expression of emotion and consciousness. Shaping hands convey the idea, reveal the form of the project and give it substance. They allow things to emerge while retaining the memory of the thrown form, yielding to the character of the material, recognizing how it reacts and paying considerable attention to how it behaves, to the natural metamorphoses of the various stages*

*between wet and dry, to the different phases of fire and glaze. The thrown form knowingly exposes itself to these transformations, which fuse, agitate, compress and harden kaolin, feldspar and quartz, the components of porcelain.”*  
(Bruno Glatt)

This blank, white surface resonates with much less anonymous density than a piece of paper and acts as a support for decoration that either accentuates or distances itself from the shape, through lines or areas of colour on the outside or inside of the vessels, causing them to fluctuate between two- and three-dimensionality. It is through the arrangement of the three porcelain series in space that the project demonstrates its relevance and proves to be perfectly consistent with Partenheimer’s artistic approach.

Jürgen Partenheimer has become passionately and enthusiastically involved in the complex and demanding world of ceramics. He has fallen under the spell of the medium, tested its limits and heard its call.

Exhibition curated by Anne-Claire Schumacher, Curator at the Musée Ariana

**Courtesy**  
**Häusler Contemporary**  
**München | Zürich**



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## ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

Jürgen Partenheimer

Born 1947 in Munich, Germany. Lives and works in Germany and Italy.

### Selection of Monographic Works 1983-2014

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Der Weg der Nashörner. Fragmente Part II*, Kunstraum, Munich, 1983

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Der Ort des Bogens*, Kunstverein, Münster, 1984

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Verwandlung – Heimkehr. Fragmente IV*, Nationalgalerie, Berlin, 1988

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Tönende Schatten*, Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen; Kunstmuseum, St. Gallen; Kunstmuseum, Düsseldorf, 1989

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Vasts apart – Bereiche des Ordners*, Hamburger Kunsthalle, 1990

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Ausgewählte Texte – Selected Texts 1970-1992*, Städelsches Kunstinstitut, Frankfurt; Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, 1993

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Cantos*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, 1997

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Cantos y otras mentiras – songs and other lies*, IVAM Centre Julio Gonzales, Valencia; CAM Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, Florida, 1998

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Fragmente*, Staatliche Kunsthalle, Karlsruhe, 1998

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Escultura, Pintura y Dibujo*, CGAC Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea, Santiago de Compostela, 1999

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Architecture-Sculpture*, Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, 2000

Jürgen Partenheimer. *CrossMapping*, National Museum of Fine Arts, Beijing; Nanjing Museum, Nanjing, 2001

Jürgen Partenheimer. *La robe des choses*, S.M.A.K. Stedelijk Museum voor actuele Kunst, Ghent, 2002

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Der Schein der Dinge*, Museum am Ostwall, Dortmund, 2004

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Souave Loucura – Gentle Madness*, Pinacoteca Do Estado, São Paulo, 2005

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Roma – São Paulo. Zeichnungen – Drawings*, Staatliche Kunsthalle, Karlsruhe; Pinacoteca do Estado, São Paulo, 2006

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Discontinuity, Paradox & Precision*, IKON Gallery, Birmingham, 2008

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Seeds & Tracks and Folded Spirits*, Kienbaum Artists Books, Johannesburg / Cologne, 2013

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Das Archiv – The Archive*, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich; Gemeentemuseum, The Hague; Deichtorhallen Hamburg – Collection Falckenberg; Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, 2014

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Calliope*, Musée Ariana, Geneva, Munich, 2015

### Selection of Solo and Group Exhibitions 1980-2014

*Was sind Sie denn von Beruf?* Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf, 1980

*Die Fliegende Birke*, Kunstraum, Munich, 1980; Staatliche Kunsthalle, Baden-Baden, 1981

*Il nuovo contesto in Europa*, Studio Marconi, Milan, 1980

*XI. Biennale Paris*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 1980; Sara Hildén Museum, Tampere, 1981

*A Choice from Paris Biennale*, SCC, Belgrade, 1980

*Arte International Paris 1980*, Musée d'Art Contemporain, Nice;

Galeria Nacional de Arte Moderna, Lisbon, 1981

*Neue Malerei aus Deutschland*, Akademie der Künste, Berlin, 1981

*XVI. Biennale, Nukleus I.*, São Paulo, 1981

*Lisbon International Exhibition of Drawings*, Galeria Nacional de Arte Moderna, Lisbon, 1981

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Die Phantasie der Genauigkeit*, Stichting De Appel, Amsterdam, 1981

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Monument Moral. Oeuvres récentes*, Articule Gallery, Montreal, 1982

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Drawings*, Artists Space, New York, 1983

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Der Weg der Nashörner, Fragmente II*, Kunstraum, Munich, 1983

*Neue Malerei in Deutschland*, Nationalgalerie Berlin, 1983; Haus der Kunst, Munich, 1984; Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, 1984

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Der Ort des Bogens*, Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, 1985

*Kunst in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1945-1985*, Nationalgalerie, Staatliche Museen Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin, 1985

*Alles und noch viel mehr. Das poetische ABC*, Kunsthalle und Kunstmuseum, Bern, 1985

*New Acquisitions*, The New York Public Library, New York, 1985

*Zeitgenössische Kunst – Eine Perspektive*, Kunstmuseum, Düsseldorf, 1985

*XLII. Biennale di Venezia*, Venice, 1986

*Behind the Eyes*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, 1986

*Nachtvuur*, De Appel, Amsterdam, 1988

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Verwandlung-Heimkehr*, Nationalgalerie, Berlin, 1988

*Signatures*, Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Ghent, 1988

*I Triennial de Dibuix*, Fundació Juan Miró, Barcelona, 1989

*The 1980s*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, 1989

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Tönende Schatten*, Museum Schloß Morsbroich, Leverkusen, 1989; Kunstmuseum, St. Gallen, 1989; Kunstmuseum, Düsseldorf, 1990

*Individuelle Positionen*, Kunsthalle, Cologne, 1990

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Bereiche des Ordners. Vasts apart*, Hamburger Kunsthalle, 1990

*Zur Eröffnung*, Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen, 1991

*New Acquisitions*, Museum Ludwig, Cologne, 1992

*Series and Sequences. Contemporary Drawings from the Collection*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, 1993

*The American Livre d'Artiste*, The Grolier Club, New York, 1993

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Horos*, Gemeentemuseum, The Hague; Städelsches Kunstinstitut, Frankfurt, 1993

*A Century of Artists Books*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1994

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Drucke und Bücher*, Kunstmuseum, Bonn, 1994; Staatliche Graphische Sammlung, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, 1995

*Forecast: Shifts in Direction*, Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, 1994

*Quince. Salon de los 16*, MAC Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Madrid, 1995

*Kunst in Deutschland*, Kunst und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn, 1995

*New Grounds*, CAM Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, 1997

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Die Verschickung der Orte*, Kunstverein, Göttingen; Dortmunder Kunstverein, 1997

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Cantos*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, 1997

*German Contemporary Art*, The Singapore Art Museum, Singapore, 1997

*Arteleku*, Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona, 1998

*Pintura Alemana del Siglo XX*, Caja Madrid – Sala de las Alhajas, Madrid, 1998

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Cantos y otras mentiras*, IVAM Centre Julio Gonzalez, Valencia; CAM Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, 1998

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Fragmente*, Staatliche Kunsthalle, Karlsruhe, 1998

*Leaf, Spine, Word, Sign*. Artists Books from the Workshop of Hank Hine. Limestone Press San Francisco.  
Kunstmuseum, Bonn; Staatliche Kunsthalle, Karlsruhe, 1999

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Escultura – Pintura – Dibujo*, CGAC Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea, Santiago de Compostela, 1999

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Crossmapping*, National Museum of Fine Arts, Beijing, Nanjing Museum, Nanjing, 2000

Partenheimer. *Architecture-Sculpture*, Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, 2000

*Arte Alema de Pos-Guerra*, Fundação Centro Cultural de Belem, Lisbon, 2000

*Die Intelligenz der Hand*. Europäische Zeichnungen, Rupertinum, Salzburg, 2001

Jürgen Partenheimer. *La robe des choses*, S.M.A.K. Stedelijk Museum voor actuele Kunst, Ghent, 2002

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Der Schein der Dinge*, Museum am Ostwall, Dortmund, 2004

Joyce in Art, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, 2004

A Arañeira – *The cobweb*. Works from the collection, CGAC Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea, Santiago de Compostela, 2004

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Suave Locoura / Gentle Madness*, Pinacoteca Do Estado, São Paulo, 2004

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Das römische Tagebuch*, Deutsche Akademie Villa Massimo, Rome, 2005

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Künstlerbücher / Artists Books*, Buchmuseum, Landesbibliothek-, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Dresden, 2005

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Roma – São Paulo. Zeichnungen – Drawings*, Staatliche Kunsthalle, Karlsruhe, 2006;  
Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, 2007

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Metaphysical Landscape*, Nietzsche-Haus, Sils-Maria, 2008

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Discontinuity, Paradox & Precision*, IKON Gallery, Birmingham; Kunstmuseum, Bonn, 2008

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Mimesis*, Museum Chasa Jaura, Valchava, 2009

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Xenia*, Kunsthalle zu Kiel, 2010

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Seeds & Tracks and Folded Spirits*, Nirox Project Space, Johannesburg, 2011

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Lemke*, Mies van der Rohe Haus, Berlin, 2011

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Der Besuch*, Die Pinakothek der Moderne München zu Gast im Museum Mobile, Ingolstadt, 2013

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Das Archiv – The Archive*, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich; Deichtorhallen – Collection Falckenberg, Hamburg; Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag; Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, 2014

Jürgen Partenheimer. *Calliope*, Musée Ariana, Geneva, 2015

#### **Website**

<http://haeusler-contemporary.com/>

# Jürgen Partenheimer

# Calliope

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENEVA, 20 NOVEMBER 2015 – 20 MARCH 2016

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Musée Ariana

Swiss Museum of Ceramics and Glass

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[www.ariana-geneve.ch](http://www.ariana-geneve.ch)

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm, closed Mondays

Entrance fee (CHF 5.-/CHF 3.-), free for under 18s and on the first Sunday of the month

On other Sundays, buy one ticket, get one free

**Exhibition preview** Thursday 19 November 2015 at 7 pm, in the presence of the artist

**Press visit** : Thursday 19 November 2015 at 3 pm by the curator and the artist or on demand

### Guided tours for the public

Sunday 22 November (in the presence of the artist), 10 January, 7 February at 3 pm

Sunday 6 December, 6 and 20 March at 11 am

### Exhibition Catalogue

Jürgen Partenheimer. Calliope

Munich, 2015

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Snoeck Verlagsgesellschaft mbH

CHF 28.-

### Exhibition organisation:

Isabelle Naef Galuba, Director

### Exhibition curated by:

Anne-Claire Schumacher, Curator at the Musée Ariana, [anne-claire.schumacher@ville-ge.ch](mailto:anne-claire.schumacher@ville-ge.ch)

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## Calliope

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENEVA, 20 NOVEMBER 2015 – 20 MARCH 2016

### PICTURES FOR THE PRESS

**01 Jürgen Partenheimer** (Münich, 1947)

*Kalliope II#7*, 2011

Porcelain, painted in polychrome enamels,  
one of a kind  
h. 46 cm

Collection Porzellanmanufaktur  
Nymphenburg, München  
Copyright : Jürgen Partenheimer  
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Courtesy : Häusler Contemporary  
München / Zürich



**02 Jürgen Partenheimer** (Münich, 1947)

*Kalliope III#3*, 2011

Porcelain, painted in polychrome enamels,  
one of a kind  
h. 46 cm

Collection Porzellanmanufaktur  
Nymphenburg, München  
Copyright : Jürgen Partenheimer  
et VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn  
Courtesy : Häusler Contemporary  
München / Zürich



**03 Jürgen Partenheimer** (Münich, 1947)

*Kalliope III#7*, 2011

Porcelain, painted in polychrome enamels,  
one of a kind  
h. 46 cm

Collection privée, München  
Copyright : Jürgen Partenheimer  
et VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn  
Courtesy : Häusler Contemporary  
München / Zürich





**04 Jürgen Partenheimer** (Münich, 1947)

*Kalliope III#4*, 2011

Porcelain, painted in polychrome enamels,  
one of a kind  
h. 46 cm

Collection Porzellanmanufaktur  
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**05 Jürgen Partenheimer** (Münich, 1947)

*Kalliope II#5*, 2011

Porcelain, painted in polychrome enamels,  
one of a kind  
h. 30 cm

Collection Porzellanmanufaktur  
Nymphenburg, München  
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**06 Jürgen Partenheimer** (Münich, 1947)

*Kalliope II#2*, 2011

Porcelain, painted in polychrome enamels,  
one of a kind  
h. 30 cm

Collection Porzellanmanufaktur  
Nymphenburg, München  
Copyright : Jürgen Partenheimer  
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Courtesy : Häusler Contemporary  
München / Zürich



**07 Jürgen Partenheimer** (Münich, 1947)

*Kalliope I, II*, 2011

Porcelain, painted in polychrome enamels,  
one of a kind  
h. max 46 cm

Collection Porzellanmanufaktur  
Nymphenburg, München et collection privée, München  
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Courtesy : Häusler Contemporary  
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**08 Jürgen Partenheimer** (Münich, 1947)

*Kalliope I, II, III*, 2011

Porcelain, painted in polychrome enamels,  
one of a kind  
h. max 46 cm

Collection Porzellanmanufaktur  
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Courtesy : Häusler Contemporary  
München / Zürich



**09 Jürgen Partenheimer** (Münich, 1947)

*Kalliope I, II, III*, 2011

Porcelain, painted in polychrome enamels,  
one of a kind  
h. max 46 cm

Collection Porzellanmanufaktur  
Nymphenburg, München  
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**10 Jürgen Partenheimer** (Münich, 1947)

Portrait of the artist

Photo : Rein Ergo, Ghent



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