

OFFICINE SAFFI LAB

MASTERING CERAMICS



ABOUT

A ceramic studio dedicated to the creative investigation of ceramic production, collaborating with an extended network of local and international experts from the field.

Foregrounding collaboration and co-creation, we connect artists, designers and brands with ceramic culture.

We are a team of young and energetic artisans, passionate about what we do. While the past inspires us, what drives us is the search for new horizons.

Our approach is purpose-built for today's interdisciplinary and cross-cultural environment, combining research and experimentation with professional savvy. With over ten years of experience making, producing, and promoting ceramics, our dynamic team of creatives has the knowledge and enthusiasm to bring your projects to life.





MADE IN MILANO

A state-of-the-art studio in the city centre of Milan.

The workshop spaces for research, design, prototyping and production are designed to encourage the constant development of the techniques, glazes and expressive languages that hallmark our activities. A new Blaauw kiln, made specially for the workshop, allow to handle the complexity of creating the various projects developed by the team, together with or alongside the work of artists, designers and creatives. Unique in Italy in the area of non-industrial ceramic production workshops, the kiln makes it possible to fire large-scale sculptures and objects at temperatures of up to 1300°C, while also guaranteeing maximum energy efficiency.



KNOW— HOW

We guide our clients on a journey to find the most creative ceramic techniques and the best solutions for their projects.

We draw upon Italy's ancient tradition, while refining international techniques and processes. We fire at high and low temperatures; are skilled in making large-scale, multidimensional projects; and our ongoing research around raw materials has led us to develop hundreds of recipes for our own one-of-a-kind glazes.

HOW WE WORK

Research

We always sample, develop, and experiment with diverse new techniques and materials.

Design

We can design your projects, or offer a connection with the best talents in the field.

Prototyping

We've got the experience to try out new processes, turning notions into tangible forms.

Production

We are meticulous in our supervision of all phases of production, from molding to glazing.





MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES

Attitude

We're bold, uncompromising, and ready to embrace ambitious visions.

Making

We use a multitude of shaping techniques, such as throwing, coiling, and casting.

Clays

We use various kinds of earthenware, stoneware, porcelain, and more.

Glazes

We develop both high and low temperature glazes that are one-of-a-kind.





SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

We promote and employ a whole gamut of environmentally sustainable craft practices such as reclaiming, reusing, and recycling directly in the studio, as well as firing at low temperatures when possible.

What's more ceramics is in itself sustainable with mineral bodies that are sourced from the earth that, when fired, create objects that last a lifetime or longer.





PROJECTS

Ambitious,
innovative,
groundbreaking

From small to large-scale projects, we work closely with artists, designers, and brands from start to finish, in order to transform their visions into ceramic works of all kinds.

THE CIRCLE

Designer: Elisa Ossino

Client: B2C

Clays: Custom made Tuscan clay

Designed by architect Elisa Ossino, "The Circle" is a collection that pushes the search for abstraction of living space to the creation of a minimalist suspended, lunar dimension in which space itself becomes inhabitable sculpture. Clays worked by hand with artisanal and without an initial mold preserve intact the formal emotion of a material that seems to petrify into unique pieces, prime numbers, created outside the logic of serial production.



STILL

Client: Cassina

Designer: Officine Saffi Lab and Vandersande studio

Clays: white and coloured stonewares

We designed, developed, and produced a collection of vases in colored clays to decorate Cassina showrooms around the world. The collection is created in four shapes and four colors that alternate to create ever-changing combinations. As both sculptural and functional elements, these vases adapt to different types of furniture and settings.



GLAZE OBSESSION

Client: Bottega Veneta

Designer: Bottega Veneta

Materials: white terraglia, custom-made volcanic glazes

We created a series of multi-size vases covered in unique volcanic glazes, developed over two years of research into pigments, raw materials, and delving into the history of ceramics along the road. All of the vases—which appear as three-dimensional abstract paintings—have their own idiosyncrasies given that the glaze reacts differently to each firing. That's what makes them special. Further, their simple shapes have been conceived in order to heighten the materiality and colors of the glazes.



CHANTEPLEURE

Client: Loro Piana

Designer: Officine Saffi Lab

Materials: Custom-made mix of stonewares

A collection of ceramic watering cans for seedlings, inspired by the medieval cans used by gardeners to carry collected rainwater. Made from custom high-temperature clays, each set consists of a watering can and a water cistern. Together, the elements form a sculpture to adorn terraces and gardens.



FACELESS BODY

Client: Bottega Veneta

Designer: Anders Ruhwald

Materials: white stoneware, custom-made dripping glazes

In these pieces, the clay becomes the habitat for the organic growth of green plants. The foliage plays a key role, as much as the pottery itself, aligning the sculpture with the cycle of life. Plants need to be maintained and nurtured, and as they grow, the sculpture evolves, becoming a reflection of both its formal potential and the actions of those who care for it.



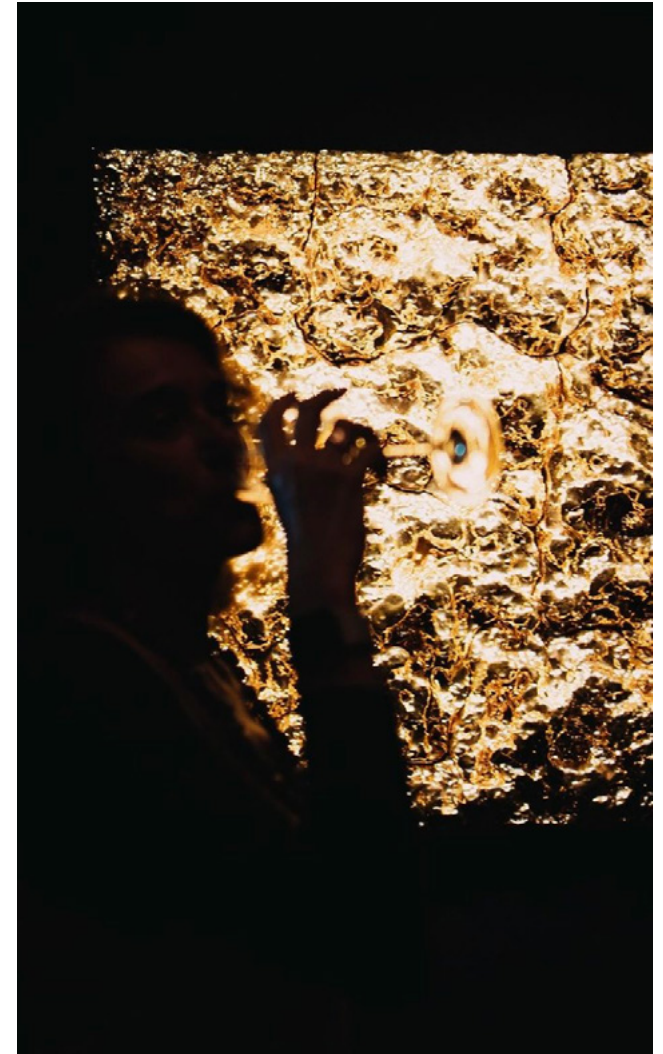
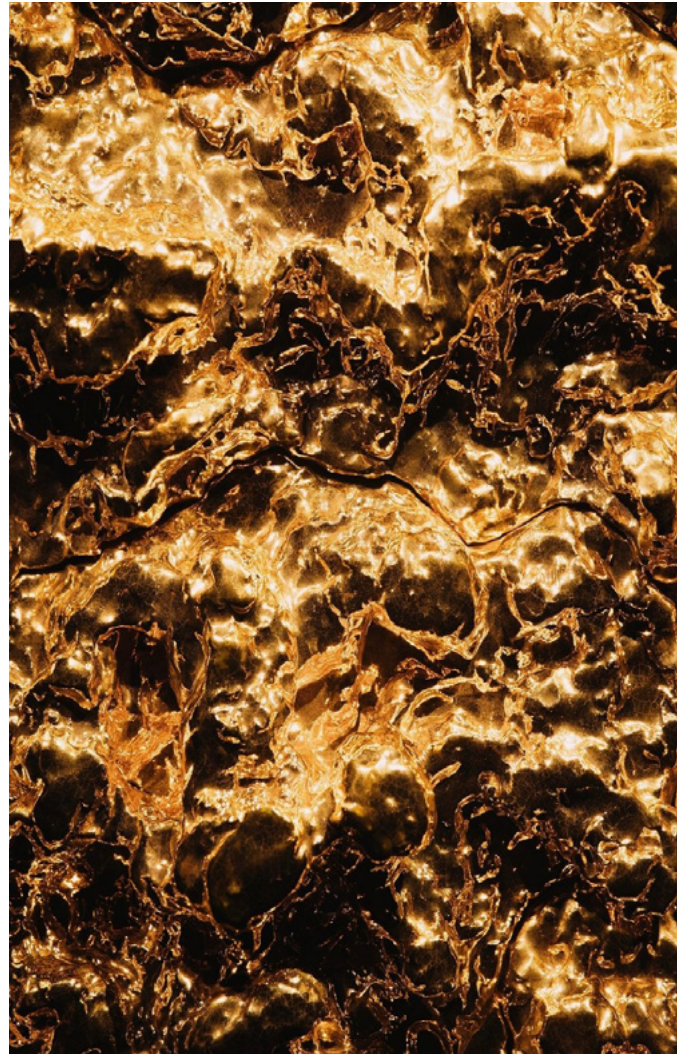
THE GOLD FEVER

Client: Ruffino

Design: Officine Saffi Lab

Materials: earthenware, glaze, gold luster

The collection takes inspiration from gold as an imaginative element. Gold nuggets are part of a dreamlike imagery that has accompanied man throughout History. We created a collection of bottle-holder and wall surfaces covered with liquid gold to create an illusion and trigger in the audience that sense of surprise and excitement attached to the discovery of something rare and incredibly precious, natural, yet magical.



PASTICHE

Client: Paolo Gonzato

Artist: Paolo Gonzato

Materials: Stoneware, custom-made glazes

We have produced a series of unique works, conducting extensive research on glazes to achieve very precise color points. The works are decorative and architectural fragments of uncertain date, ceramic artifacts rich in sediments as if they had just emerged from archaeological excavations of an ancient civilization, or even omens of a dystopian and post-apocalyptic world.



CONTACTS

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