



MUSÉE BARBIER-MUELLER  
GENÈVE

## BASEMENT

### FIRECRACKERS

#### Creating a void

#### Force – form: a simple gesture, and its impact on the material

If we can sometimes wish for a formal result (with its implication of mastery), it's also possible to think that language, and therefore expression, can already exist in the choice of a tool, and that this tool is basically a force interacting with a material, in the “becoming form” of that material.

The void is a core element of ceramic phenomenology, with the bowl as its archetype, this membrane separating two voids, two spaces, interior and exterior.

All sorts of techniques can be used to create a void in the material, but the traditional ones are throwing, coiling, pinching, casting, stamping.

Pushing a stick in, passing a wire through, or detonating a firecracker in the ground are methods that are more personal to me.

Explosions are all about registering the effect of an instantaneous force in the material. The blast (the force) hollows out the clay block. The resulting shape is at the exact balancing point between the power of the explosive and the resistance of the material. It's practically impossible to achieve the same result twice, as too many factors come into play despite the simplicity of the process.

*Jacques Kaufmann*