

DISCOVER  
THE  
FASCINATING  
WORLD  
WHERE  
DELFT BLUE  
AND  
STREET ART  
MEET

ROYAL  
DELFT 1653  
KONINKLIJKE PORCELEYNEN FLES



# URBAN BLUE

Product  
catalogue

STRAAT



## Urban Blue - from Bricks to Tiles

In the heart of the historic city of Delft, two worlds that seem complete opposites collide: the world of Delft Blue and the world of street art. In *Urban Blue – from Bricks to Tiles*, Royal Delft Museum and STRAAT Museum Amsterdam bridge the gap between the past and the present in traditional, yet innovative artworks. Six street artists from all over the world have come to Delft to trade their working surface from bricks to tiles. During their first residency in November, visitors had the opportunity to watch the artists working live. They created unique cross-over artworks between techniques that were both familiar to them, and completely new. The traditional craft of Delft Blue that has been practiced in The Porceleyne Fles since the 17th century formed a source of inspiration that led to new perspectives and visual culture. The six artists searched for the hidden stories of Delft Blue while showing the opportunities of street art.

With little to no experience in ceramics and with only two weeks to work with, the six artists managed to create unique and inspiring artworks. Although everyone drew inspiration from craftsmanship of Delft Blue, each object resulted in a refreshing work in which the artists' personal style is clearly visible. With origins from all over the world, every artist brought new perspectives and inspiration to Royal Delft Museum. Therefore, the museum would like to give special thanks to Claudio Limon, Keya Tama, Madi, Ryol, Speto and Tja Ling Hu. They have proved that tradition and innovation can indeed work together and produce magnificent results.

### Interested?

Has a piece from one of the artists from *Urban Blue – from Bricks to Tiles* caught your attention? We are happy to provide you with further information on the possibilities. Please contact our team to make a (temporary) reservation and receive advise on delivery, installation, and care. If you wish to view a work a again in the museum, we are happy to arrange an appointment. Prices include VAT.

**Please contact Roel Beks - Account Manager Royal Delft**

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**CLAUDIO**

**LIMON**

## Who are you, and what defines that?

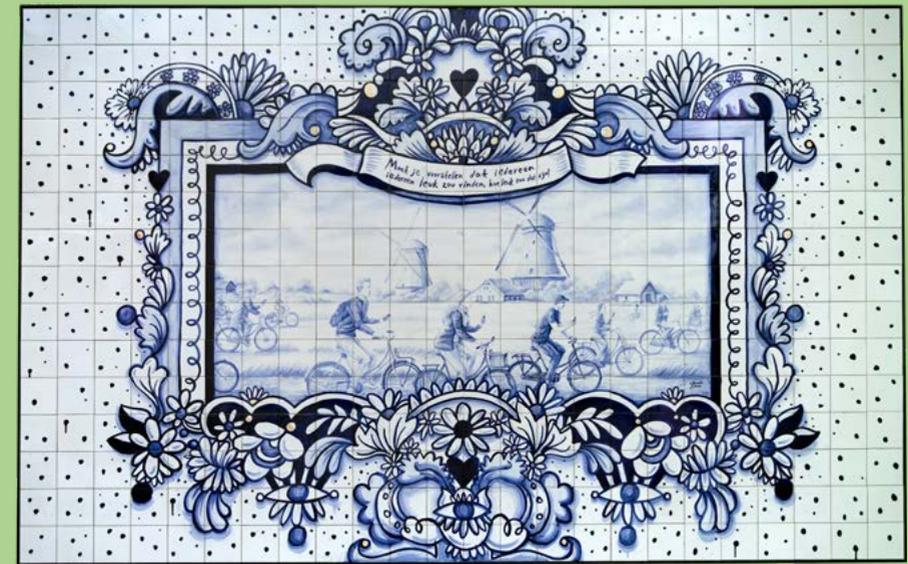
### Claudio Limon (1979) - Mexico

In his work, Mexican artist Claudio Limon explores not only his own identity, but also the Dutch identity. And what is more Dutch than... cycling? Combined with breaking the rules, of course.

By painting Delft Blue vases with typically Mexican hearts, flowers, and cacti, Claudio is doing exactly what the Delft potters did in the 17th century. In Mexico, a heart is more than just a romantic symbol; it primarily refers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus - a religious symbol found everywhere. The flowers refer to the embroidery on traditional Mexican clothing.

In this way, he translates a rich tradition into the taste of his own time. Just as the Delft painters 'Dutchified' the Chinese style, Claudio transforms Mexican folk art into a visual language of today.

*Claudio Limon's (Jalisco, 1979) large-scale murals can be found all over the world, including Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and Mexico City. In the latter, he created one of Mexico's largest tile mosaics, spanning an area of 1,765 square metres. Joy and cultural identity are central here. His work is expressive and mixes Mexican traditions with contemporary pop culture. This results in dynamic compositions that bridge the gap between old and new. Always with the same goal in mind: to put a smile on your face.*



## PERFECT HARMONY

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: 199 x 316 cm  
Selling price: € 20.000,00

Grand ceramic tableau consisting of 360 tiles. Hand-painted with various blue tones. The tableau shows a richly decorated frame with various flowers and imaginative shapes. The banner in the middle contains a Dutch text that translates to: "Imagine if everyone liked each other, how nice would that be." Signed by the artist in the right corner of the middle piece. One-of-a-kind piece.

## THE GUARDIAN

Technique: Hand-painted

Measurements: h. 13 cm

Selling price: € 1.100,00

Ceramic cat figure, decorated with dark blue shapes. Object contains various shapes, ranging from flowers, to circles, and an eye. Signed by the artist. Hand-painted and one-of-a-kind piece.



front



back

## THE GOLDEN HEART Serie: Inner Garden

Technique: Hand-painted

Measurements: h. 36,5 cm

Selling price: € 6.000,00

Richly decorated ceramic vase with removable lid. The vase is decorated with shapes in various colors. Playful design with traditional colors. Signed by the artist. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



back

## EYES INTO YOUR SOUL

### Serie: Inner Garden

Technique: Combination of hand-painted and transfer

Measurements: h. 77 cm

Selling price: € 10.000,00

Grand ceramic vase with removable lid. Hand-painted with various blue colors and a hint of red, including some golden details. Decorated with imaginative figures and a classical landscape in the middle. Signed by the artist. One-of-a-kind piece.

## PETALS OF LOVE

### Serie: Inner Garden

Technique: Hand-painted

Measurements: h. 38 cm

Selling price: € 6.000,00

Ceramic vase with a small neck. Slender form with detailed decorations in blue, red, and gold. Signed by the artist. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



back



front



back

## WHERE DREAMS LEARN TO FLY

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: h. 67 cm  
Selling price: € 10.000,00

Unique ceramic vase with removable lid. Richly decorated with a dark blue, almost black color. Design goes all the way around the vase. Signed by the artist. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



back

## BLOOMING HAPPINESS

Serie: Inner Garden

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: ø 40 cm  
Selling price: € 4.500,00

Hand-painted ceramic plate. Tends slightly towards a bowl. Richly decorated with detailed flowers and plants in blue, red, and gold. Signed by the artist. One-of-a-kind piece.







**KEYYA  
TAMMA**

Who are  
you, and  
what  
defines  
that?

## Keya Tama (1997) – Cape Town

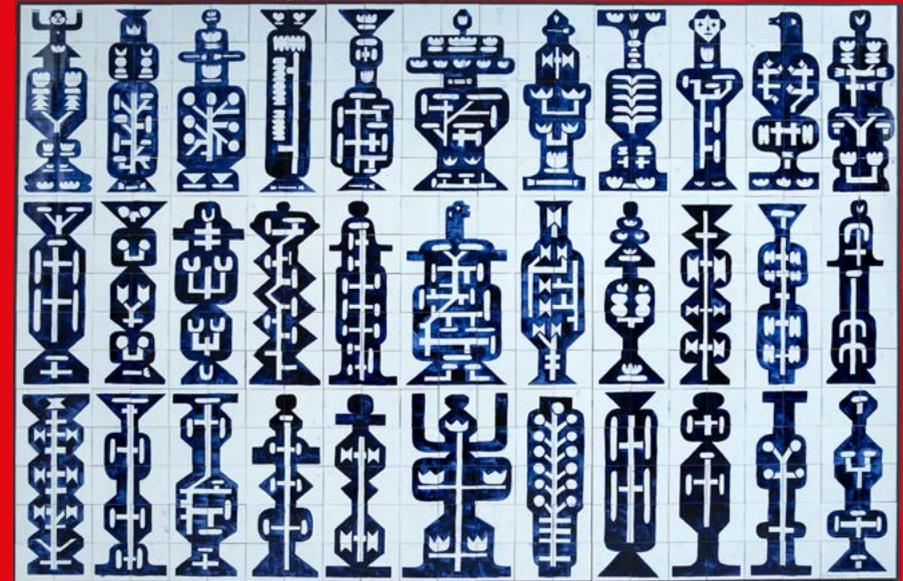
The link between Delft Blue and South Africa is closer than you might think. In the 17th century, the Cape of Good Hope was established where Cape Town stands today. A Dutch colony where VOC ships, laden with spices and Chinese porcelain, could refuel along the way. Dutch was spoken there.

Three centuries later, Keya Tama was born here. The colony has long since ceased to exist, but the Dutch of long ago still echoes in the Afrikaans spoken in Cape Town. For instance, a *vuurhoutjie* is a match, *dankie* is thank you, and *breekware* means crockery.

Keya is fascinated by the development of language. In patterns that slightly resemble hieroglyphs, he shows its continuous evolution. Afrikaans originates from Dutch, but both languages continue to evolve independently from one another.

On the spinning vase, his images take on the effect of the very first animated films: by rotating, they appear to come to life. This is no coincidence; language never stands still.

Keya Tama (Cape Town, 1997) lives and works in New York, where he creates both enormous murals and smaller works on paper and textiles. In his work, he explores the contrast between ancient symbols and modern folklore. By using recurring motifs (people, animals, nature), he creates a visual language that connects the past and the present. His murals can be seen all over the world.



## MEMORIES

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: 199 x 304 cm  
Selling price: € 10.000,00

Grand ceramic tableau consisting of 345 tiles. Hand-painted in blue with different undertones. Portrays iconographic pattern of totems, of which each totem is different. Signed in the lower right corner.  
One-of-a-kind piece.

## HOME

Technique: Hand-painted  
 Measurements: h. 77 cm  
 Selling price: € 10.000,00

Hand-painted ceramic vase, including a removable lid with a small lion on top. Extensive and detailed decoration of animals and organic figures all around the vase in a rich blue color. Top of the vase is painted gold. One-of-a-kind piece.

## FOREVER

Technique: Transfer  
 Measurements: h. 35 cm  
 Selling price: € 1.200,00

Ceramic vase with a handmade design that is transferred on the vase. Top of the vase is small with a broader body. Decorated with animals and humans in blue. Signed by the artist on the bottom. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



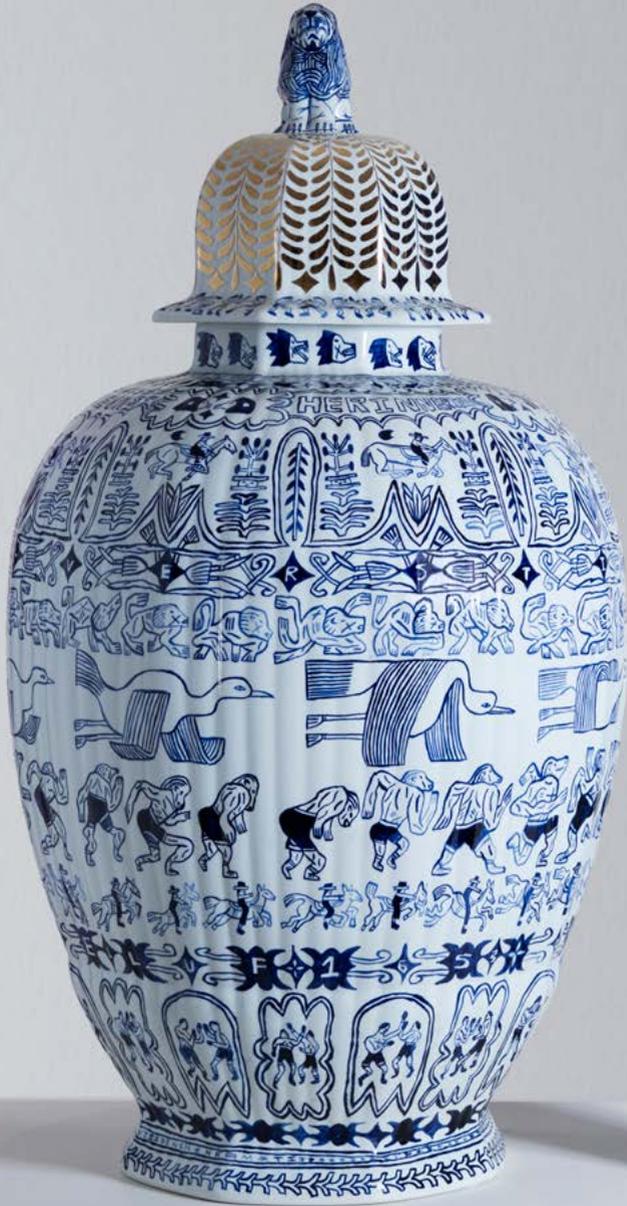
back



front



back





**M  
A  
D  
I**

Who are  
you, and  
what  
defines  
that?

## Madi (1987) – France

Inspired by 17th-century Delft Blue tulip pyramids, French artist Madi combines her own visual language - full of flowers, plants, symbols, and faces - with that of totem poles.

Totem poles have traditionally been made by the indigenous peoples of the American Northwest Coast. Featuring animals, symbols, and mythical creatures stacked on top of each other, they pass down tribal and family legends.

This makes them true storytellers; they are about identity, history, and tradition, and are steeped in symbolism. Every element has a hidden meaning that goes deeper than what meets the eye.

In Madi's totem poles made of pots, vases, and plates, every shape and every face tells a story. Together, all these stories form a larger whole. What that whole represents is not for her to decide; Madi provides the ingredients, but you are invited to assemble the story yourself.

Madi (Antibes, 1987) lives and works in Lisbon. Here, she creates 'inner landscapes', renderings of her dreams, emotions, and memories. Her works are diverse, ranging from murals to canvases and collaborations with clothing brands, but always instinctive. She seeks out wonder and escapism: that single moment where different elements come together to form a world and evoke emotion.



## CARTOGRAPHY OF SOULS

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: 199 x 302 cm  
Selling price: € 20.000,00

Grand ceramic tableau consisting of 345 tiles. It contains hand-painted human figures and imaginative scenes. Smaller tiles on the edge of the tableau contain small images. The color palette ranges from delicate blue tones to rich, deep dark blue shades. Signed by the artist on the lower right. One-of-a-kind piece.

## ORIGIN

Technique: Hand-painted  
 Measurements: 144,5 x 35 cm  
 Selling price: € 15.500,00

Ceramic totem with different shapes placed on top of each other. Lowest part forms a vase with a detailed female figure. On top of that, different round shapes in blue and white are placed on top. The highest shape contains a small human head. Front and back are similarly decorated. Signed by the artist. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



back

## CHILD OF LIGHT

Technique: Hand-painted  
 Measurements: 60 x 25 cm  
 Selling price: € 4.800,00

Hand-painted ceramic vase consisting of two different shapes, held together by a plate. Below is a female figure, on top a small vase with a horse. Painted in deep blue colors. Signed by the artist. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



side



back





**RYOJ**

## Who are you, and what defines that?

### Ryol (1993) – Indonesia

The anime-style figures by Indonesian artist Ryol may look cute, but appearances can be deceiving. They offer sharp critiques of the world: on the patriarchy, prejudice, and gender roles.

In this, Ryol sees similarities with Delft Blue; it too is attractively decorated at first glance, but if you look deeper, you see the history the designs carry with them. It's a history full of aspects that warrant criticism.

To achieve this, he lets the look of the objects he paints guide him. The shape of the vase or tile determines where his figures are placed. For instance, the curve of a vase becomes the outline of a head, and a tile grid defines the frame.

Instead of the characteristic blue, he decides - as has also happened since the 17th century - to work with different colours: black, yellow, red, and green. This creates an encounter between different generations: the form is unmistakably Delft pottery, but with figures from a completely different world.

Ryol (Banyuwangi, 1993) lives and works in Yogyakarta. Here, he creates murals, paintings, and sculptures in which he blends pop culture with surrealism. His dreamy, alienating visual language is strongly influenced by cartoons, anime, and Impressionism. His characteristic figures (often vulnerable, with large, glossy eyes) reflect on loss, nostalgia, and authenticity; their inner world often contrasts with their outer world.



## DELFT, BRIEFLY

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: 199 x 172 cm  
Selling price: € 14.875,00

Grand ceramic tableau consisting of 195 tiles. Depicts a young boy with dark blue hair, a red scarf and stars for eyes. Background is a brown, reddish color. Rain falls from the clouds that say "Ryol Delft": a reference to the artist's name. One-of-a-kind piece.

## KILN-BORN

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: h. 28 cm  
Selling price: € 5.100,00

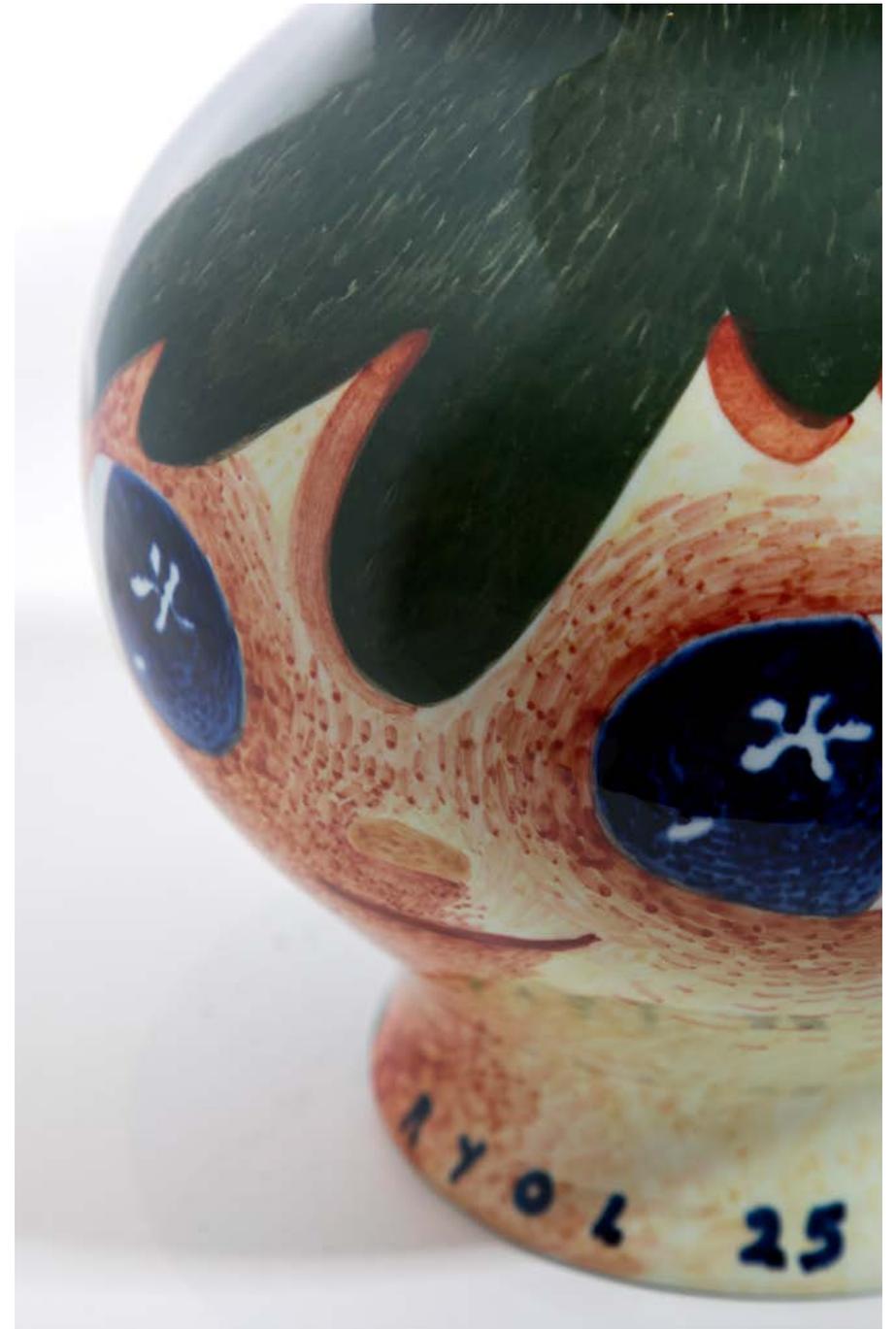
Small ceramic vase with a figure. Color-combination of deep green, blue, red, and white. The facial expressions are unique on the front and back. Signed by the artist. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



back



## HERITAGE INTERRUPTED

Technique: Hand-painted  
 Measurements: h. 49 cm  
 Selling price: € 6.375,00

Ceramic vase with removable lid that depicts red and yellow stars. Includes a banner that says "Royal Delft". Two different figures are portrayed on the front and back in different colors. Signed by the artist. One-of-a-kind piece.

## ORBIT OF SELF

Technique: Hand-painted  
 Measurements: 14 x 30,5 cm  
 Selling price: € 3.825,00

Hand-painted ceramic bowl. White from the outside, with the text "Royal Delft" and "Ryol Delft". Dark blue color with multiple figures and stars in white. Gives the impression of a stop-motion when the bowl is spun around. Signed by the artist. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



back





**SPETO**

Who are  
you, and  
what  
defines  
that?

## Speto (1971) – Brazil

Who is your hero? In the 17th century, these were primarily stadtholders and members of the Royal Family. Their coats of arms and symbols feature on Delft Blue plates and tiles. By bringing these into your home, you demonstrated your loyalty to the monarchy.

For Speto, his heroes are primarily the musicians of his youth. Speto grew up in a Brazil under a strict military regime. Nothing could be done, said, or made without government approval. Consequently, musicians were forced to wrap their critiques in 'code' or flee the country. In 1985, the regime fell - Speto was 14 at the time. The Brazilian art and music scene exploded; they were finally free.

In line with the tradition of creating Delft Blue commemorative plates, Speto honours all those musicians who never gave up. They remained loyal to Brazilian culture.

Speto (São Paulo, 1971) is one of the pioneers of the Brazilian street art scene and has been active since the late eighties. His style is characterised by a mix of Cordel (simple woodcuts depicting the rugged Brazilian countryside, popular in the 1930s), folk tales, and popular culture. He enjoys bridging the gap between the present and traditional Brazilian visual languages. He does this through murals, drawings, and graphics.



## TREM AZUL

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: 212 x 160 cm  
Selling price: € 12.400,00

Grand ceramic tableau consisting of 192 tiles. The tableau is made using a variety of painting techniques. Pays tribute to Brazilian musicians Lô Borges and Milton Nascimento through a composition featuring two figures and multiple objects. Painted in blue. Signed by the artist on the lower right. One-of-a-kind piece.

## I LOVE MY FAMILY - ONE

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: 14,5 x 10,5 cm  
Selling price: € 425,00

Small hand-painted ceramic female figure. The front shows a face with red freckles, which is detachable from the lower part. Painted in various blue colors, front and back designs are different. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



back

## I LOVE MY FAMILY - TWO

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: 18,5 x 7,5 cm  
Selling price: € 425,00

Hand-painted ceramic vase with the face of a female figure. Depicts a red heart on her body. The vase has an organic, slender form. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



back

## I LOVE MY FAMILY - THREE

Technique: Hand-painted  
 Measurements: 8 x 15 cm  
 Selling price: € 425,00

Small ceramic jar female figure. The front shows her face and hands with a red heart in the middle. The back shows her hair with a red ribbon. The bottom half has slight grooves, giving the object an organic form. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



back

## RED VELVET

Technique: Hand-painted  
 Measurements: h. 35 cm  
 Selling price: € 2.100,00

Hand-painted ceramic vase in dark red with blue details. Top of the vase is open and the bottom has small grooves. The front depicts a detailed female face. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



back

## I LOVE MY FAMILY - FOUR

Technique: Hand-painted

Measurements: 18 x 8 cm

Selling price: € 425,00

Hand-painted ceramic vase with the face of a female figure, with blue and red details. The back shows a sunflower and is painted deep blue. The top of the vase is pointed, the head of the body can be detached from the body. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



back





**TJA  
LING**

## Who are you, and what defines that?

### Tja Ling Hu (1987) – The Netherlands

In the 17th century, Chinese porcelain was so popular that supply simply couldn't keep up with demand. This led Delft potters to start creating their own designs.

In essence, Delft Blue is a *dupe*, but with one major difference: the rich symbolism that saturates Chinese porcelain was not adopted. Tja Ling Hu is changing that by placing the concept of *Qi* (life force) at the heart of her work.

*Qi* is the energy that flows through everything and everyone in the universe. It's passed on from the source, via the woman with the pinecone in her hair (symbolising immortality and fertility) and the snake (symbolising wisdom), to others. It represents an endless transmission of life, knowledge, craft, and culture.

Much like the cycle of *Qi*, Tja Ling brings things full circle with her tile tableau: through her roots and the use of a typically Dutch craft, she finally gives Chinese symbolism a place within Delft Blue.

Tja Ling Hu (Gorinchem, 1987) grew up between two cultures. Her parents migrated China for the Netherlands in the 1970s, where they built a new life through hard work in the family restaurant. Tja Ling was raised with typically Dutch values and norms. This created a gap between her and her parents; rituals and spirituality increasingly gave way to individualism and Dutch directness. In her work, she seeks to bridge that divide.



## THROUGH THE BODY, THROUGH THE MIND

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: 199 x 264 cm  
Selling price: € 21.000,00

Grand ceramic tableau consisting of 300 tiles. The tableau depicts a dream-like state of seven women, a bird, and a snake. Through them flows the Chinese life energy *Qi*. Painted in various blue colors. Signed by the author on the upper right. One-of-a-kind piece.

## SILENT RIVER

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: h. 12,5 cm  
Selling price: € 1.200,00

Hand-painted ceramic vase with removable lid. Depicts a women and snake, painted in blue and hints of gold. The painting goes around the vase and forms a cycle. The lid contains a lotus flower. Signed by the artist on the bottom. One-of-a-kind piece.



front



back

## PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Technique: Hand-painted  
Measurements: h. 49 cm  
Selling price: € 5.200,00

Hand-painted ceramic vase with removable lid. Depicts the intertwining of a women, a snake, and a lotusflower. Painted all around in shades of blue. The painting continues under the lid. Signed by the artist on the bottom. One-of-a-kind piece.





**URBAN BLUE SHOWS  
THAT THE TRADITION IS NOT  
A FIXED CONCEPT,  
BUT A LIVING LANGUAGE**

**STRAAT**

**ROYAL  
DELFT**   
1653  
KONINKLIJKE PORCELEYNSE FLES