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Art & ANTIQUES

FOR COLLECTORS OF THE FINE AND DECORATIVE ARTS



CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE | GOLD COINS | AMERICAN FOLK ART | STEUBEN GLASS

\$7.50US/CAN



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ABORIGINAL ART

All Fired Up

"This was a new conversation between ceramics and sculpture," says Hugues Magen, proprietor of the Magen H Gallery in New York. He is describing La Borne ceramics, a little-known postwar movement named after the French village where it was founded in the early 1940s by two young artists, Jean and Jacqueline Lerat. Magen is mounting an exhibition of 100 pieces, titled *La Borne 1940-1980*, through December 15, based on his 15 years of collecting and an intense period of seven months when he lived in La Borne to research the exhibition's comprehensive catalogue.

It was fitting that the Lerats settled in La Borne to explore their interest in three-dimensional abstraction. Pottery-making dated back to the 13th century there, with a tradition of hand-dug clay that was fired in wood-fueled kilns. The high temperature of the kilns produced these rugged stoneware ceramics, which are both sculptural and utilitarian. Over time, artists from other parts of Europe joined the movement, and the result is a range of works that share a recognizable texture and somber absence of color but vary in form from the sensuous to the organic to the geometric.

Among the star pieces that Magen H Gallery will be showing is a monumental sculptural stoneware vase with the salt glaze that was typical of La Borne ceramics, made by the Lerats in 1963. "It's a cornerstone of our collection," says Magen. "These pieces are raw, cool, and, yes, challenging." —SALLIE BRADY

