CRISTINA MERCHÁN

Coupe
Manufactured by Cristina Merchán
Venezuela, 1984
Glazed porcelain

Measurements
12,8 cm diameter x 5h cm
5 in diameter x 1,9h in

Details
Monogrammed CM and incised 84

Provenance
Fina Gomez, acquired from the artist.
Thence by descent to the present owner.

Exhibitions
"Cristina Merchán, céramiste vénézuélienne, 1926 – 1987, Une passion pour la céramique: La collection Fina Gomez 30 ans de céramique contemporaine et le Grand Prix Imetal, Hommage à Bernard Palissy", Musée des Arts décoratifs, Paris, March-June 1991.

Biography
Cristina Merchan (b.1951 Caracas, Venezuela - d.1987, Paris, France) was a renowned ceramist and painter known for her exceptional contributions to the world of contemporary ceramics. After initially exploring painting, she honed her ceramics skills, winning the prestigious National Prize for Applied Arts in 1957. Her artistic journey led her to Barcelona, where she collaborated with Francesc Albors and Josep Llorens Artigas, further shaping her expertise.

Cristina exhibited her ceramic works internationally, showcasing her talent at exhibitions in Brussels, New York, Buenos Aires, and various European cities. Her innovative approach involved classic utilitarian vessels, marked by ovoid shapes and geometric designs. She achieved striking monochrome tones through the application of satin and matte enamels, firing her pieces at high temperatures.

Notably, Cristina Merchan's work was recognized at the International Biennial of Art Ceramics in Vallauris, France, where she was a featured artist from 1968 to 1974. Her influence extended to Stuttgart, Germany, where she participated in Internationales Kunsthandwerk, and she received the honor of being a guest artist at the Salon de Arte Actual in Barcelona in 1969.

Throughout her career, Cristina's dedication to ceramics and her artistic exploration culminated in her iconic series, The Bugs, which represented a groundbreaking experiment in sculptural ceramics. She established her workshop in Paris, working tirelessly until her passing in 1987, leaving behind a lasting legacy in the world of contemporary ceramics and art.