

# FOUR BIRDS AND ONE SOUL Melis Buyruk

Four Birds and One Soul', delves into the complex interplay between the natural world and the human spirit, drawing on both Melis Buyruk's mastery of porcelain and the timeless teachings of Rumi's Masnavi. The collection is inspired by the story of the four birds from the fifth book of the Masnavi. Each bird represents a different aspect of the human condition, Rooster- lust, Goose- greed, Crow- materialism, and Peacock- pride. These are the metaphorical birds that humans nurture within their soul symbolizing the inner struggles and ego that hinder personal liberation. Through her unique porcelain sculptures, Buyruk transforms these symbolic concepts into tangible forms. Her works juxtapose the fragility and strength of porcelain to echo the tension between human limitations and the potential for transcendence.

Melis is known for her intricate and otherworldly creations, she has long explored the themes of harmony and individuality in nature. This new body of work, however, takes a more introspective turn, reflecting on the barriers that humans create within themselves.

Four Birds and One Soul is a profound exploration of the relationship between the natural world and the human spirit, serving as both a testament to Melis's exceptional artistic skill and an invitation to embark on a journey of introspection. Through her delicate yet powerful forms, Four Birds and One Soul inspires audiences to confront their inner limitations and consider the possibilities of self-liberation and transformation.

# The Shadow of Longing

The crow symbolizes the desire for immortality and the relentless pursuit of earthly goals, driven by the fear of death. It hoards and guards its treasures, representing the soul's attachment to the fleeting world. This yearning for eternal life in the physical realm keeps the soul chained to its cage. It reminds us that true immortality lies in spiritual transcendence and connection with the divine, not in clinging to the material world.



### The Flame of Desire

The rooster symbolizes the carnal desires and lust that tie the soul to its base instincts. It thrives on indulgence and passion, distracting the individual from their higher spiritual purpose. The rooster's constant call is a reminder of how persistent and overpowering these desires can be if not controlled.

It teaches the importance of discipline and self-control to overcome physical temptations and focus on spiritual elevation.







### The Veil of Pride

The peacock represents the allure of beauty, status, and vanity. With its dazzling feathers, it draws attention to itself, signifying the ego's attachment to external appearances and worldly recognition. This pride, however, blinds the soul to its deeper, divine purpose.

It serves as a reminder that arrogance and obsession with material success hinder true spiritual growth and humility.



# The Weight of Greed

The goose embodies greed and an unquenchable thirst for possessions and wealth. It constantly searches for more, hoarding and clinging to what it has, yet never feeling satisfied. This endless cycle of craving weighs down the soul, preventing it from soaring toward spiritual liberation. It highlights the importance of letting go of greed and embracing contentment to achieve inner peace.









The Blossom Within, 2024 Porcelain, Hand Hammered, brass  $90 \times 75 \text{ cm}$ 





 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Habitat/\ Earth\ Series} \\ 2024 \\ {\rm Porcelain,\ 22k\ gold\ detailed} \\ 90\ge 75\ {\rm cm} \end{array}$ 





 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Habitat/\ Earth\ Series}\\ 2024\\ {\rm Porcelain,\ 22k\ gold\ detailed}\\ 25\ge 25\ge 8\ {\rm cm} \end{array}$ 





 ${ {\rm Habitat/\; Earth\; Series} \atop 2024}$  Porcelain, 22k gold detailed 25 x 25 x 8 cm





 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Habitat/\ Earth\ Series}\\ 2024\\ {\rm Porcelain,\ 22k\ gold\ detailed}\\ 25\ge 25\ge 8\ {\rm cm} \end{array}$ 



 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Habitat/\ Earth\ Series}\\ 2024\\ {\rm Porcelain,\ 22k\ gold\ detailed}\\ 25\ge 25\ge 8\ {\rm cm} \end{array}$ 





 ${ {\rm Habitat/\; Earth\; Series} \atop 2024}$  Porcelain, 22k gold detailed 25 x 25 x 8 cm



 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Habitat/\ Earth\ Series}\\ 2024\\ {\rm Porcelain,\ 22k\ gold\ detailed}\\ 25\ge 25\ge 8\ {\rm cm} \end{array}$ 





Blooming Rock 2024 Porcelain, Stoneware  $50 \times 54 \times 17$  cm





Blooming Rock 2 2024 Porcelain, Stoneware  $43.5 \times 35 \text{ cm} \times 20.5 \text{ cm}$ 





Blooming Sparrow 2024 Porcelain, Stoneware  $44~\mathrm{cm} \ge 42~\mathrm{cm} \ge 19.5~\mathrm{cm}$ 





Blooming Earth 2024 Porcelain, Stoneware 44 cm x 18 cm





 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Habitat/\ Bloom} \\ 2024 \\ {\rm Porcelain} \\ 25 \ge 27 \ge 13 \ {\rm cm} \end{array}$ 





Blooming Snake 2024 Porcelain, Stoneware  $27 \times 26.5 \times 15$  cm





 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Habitat} \\ 2024 \\ {\rm Stoneware, \, Porcelain} \\ 27 \ge 26.5 \ge 15 \,\, {\rm cm} \end{array}$ 



 ${\rm Habitat}\atop 2024$   $27 \times 26.5 \times 14.5 \ {\rm cm}$  Stoneware, Porcelain



 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Habitat} \\ 2024 \\ {\rm Stoneware, \, Porcelain} \\ 27 \ge 26.5 \ge 15 \,\, {\rm cm} \end{array}$ 





 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Habitat} \\ 2024 \\ {\rm Stoneware, \, Porcelain} \\ 28 \ge 26.5 \ge 15 \,\, {\rm cm} \end{array}$ 



 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Habitat} \\ 2024 \\ 28.5 \ge 26.5 \ge 15 \ {\rm cm} \\ {\rm Porcelain, Stoneware} \end{array}$ 



Habitat | Loop, 2024 Porcelain, Fibreglass, Marble 125 x 70 x 15 cm





Blooming Pearl 2024 Porcelain, Fibreglass, Brass  $50 \times 40 \times 25 \text{ cm}$ 





 ${ \begin{array}{c} {\rm Habitat} \mid {\rm Terra~Rosa}, \\ 2023 \\ {\rm Porcelain,~22k~gold~details} \\ 150 \ge 125 \ {\rm cm} \\ \end{array} }$ 







Habitat | Misty Sky 2023 Porcelain, 22k Gold detailed 85 x 140 cm



#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Melis Buyruk (b. 1984, Gölcük, Turkey) is a ceramic artist based in Istanbul and Dubai, whose work explores the possibilities of porcelain as a medium within contemporary art. Through her large-scale, nature-inspired sculptures, she brings together elements of the natural world to create imagined landscapes that highlight the beauty and intricacy of organic forms.

Buyruk studied ceramics at Selçuk University, where she gained a comprehensive understanding oftraditional ceramic production techniques. Building on this foundation, she has developed a practice that combines technical expertise with a contemporary artistic vision, transforming porcelain into a medium for exploring form, texture, and scale.

Her works have been exhibited internationally, including at the Taiwan Ceramic Biennale, as well as inprominent venues across Turkey, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates. In addition, hersculptures are part of several significant collections, including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, demonstrating their resonance within both regional and global contexts.

Melis Buyruk's practice reflects a deep engagement with the materiality of porcelain, offering new perspectives on the relationship between craft, art, and the natural world. Her work serves as a thoughtful dialogue between tradition and innovation, contributing to the evolving discourse in contemporary ceramics.



# GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024	"Deck the Walls" Leila Heller Gallery New York
2024	"I Kept the Night Vigil" Leila Heller Gallery / Dubai
2023	"The Storyteller" Leila Heller Gallery / Dubai
2023	"Land of Honey" Leila Heller Gallery / New York
2023	"Tales Under The Gate" / Difc Sculpture Park / Dubai
2022	"You Know Who" Omer Koc Collection / Abdulmecid Efenfi Mansion Istanbul
2022	"Harmony of Different Voices" Difc / Dubai
2021	"Sabirla Bekleyen Büyülü Seyler" Kalyon Kültür
2021	"Summer Show" / Pg Art Gallery
2020	"After Us" / Pg Art Gallery
2018	"Alive" / Pg Art Gallery
2017	"Cosmos" Beymen Zorlu Centre
2017	"Ah" / Galeri Isik Tesvikiye / Istanbul
2017	"Metamorphosis" / Ada Han / Istanbul
2017	"Mediterranean Routes" / Luciano Benetton Collection
2016	"Never Enough" / Pg Art Gallery / Istanbul
2016	"Holistic" Pg Art Gallery / Istanbul



### ART FAIRS

2024	Contemporary Istanbul/ Leila Heller Gallery, Solo Selection
2024	Art Dubai - Leila Heller Gallery
2024	Abu Dhabi Art Fair - Leila Heller Gallery
2023	Contemporary Istanbul - Solo
2023	Abu Dhabi Art Fair - Leila Heller Gallery
2023	Art Dubai / Leila Heller Gallery
2022	Abu Dhabi Art Fair - Leila Heller Gallery
2022	Contemporary Istanbul, Solo Booth (Leila Heller Gallery)
2022	Art Dubai (Leila Heller Gallery)
2021	Abu Dhabi Art Fair (Leila Heller Gallery)
2021	Contemporary Istanbul (Pg Art Gallery)
2021	Art Dubai (Leila Heller Gallery)
2020	Intersect Chicago Virtual Art Fair (Leila Heller Gallery)
2020	Art Dubai Virtual Art Fair (Leila Heller Gallery)
2019	Step Istanbul Art Fair (Pg Art Gallery)
2019	Abu Dhabi Art Fair / Abu Dhabi (Leila Heller)
2019	Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair (Pg Art Gallery)
2018	Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair (Pg Art Gallery)
2017	Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair (Pg Art Gallery)
2017	Fresh Paint Art Fair / Tel Aviv (Pg Art Gallery)
2016	Art-Thessaloniki International Contemporary ArtFair - Greece (Pg Art Gallery)

## BIENALLES AND MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

2016 Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair (Pg Art Gallery)2015 Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair (Pg Art Gallery)

Taiwan Ceramics Bienalle - Yingge Ceramics Museum
 "From Kalila wa Dimna to La Fontaine, Travelling Through Fables" - Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum

## MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

The Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum Permanent Collection

Rahmi M. Koc Museum Permanent Collection

Elgiz Museum Permanent Collection

Eskişehir Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Arts Permanent Collection

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Front cover image: The Peacock (Symbol of Pride and Vanity) 2024, Porcelain, 81 x 66 cm

Back cover image: The Blossom Within, 2024 Porcelain, Hand hammered brass,  $90 \times 75$  cm

Conceptual Statement by Melis Buyruk

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