

LOD 20 YEARS - VIDA MUSEUM & ARTHALL  
Borgholm, Sweden 2019.

The Vida Museum & Arthall opened in 2001 and showcases exhibitions of material-based Craft, Sculpture and Painting from the early 60s to the present. I am a member of Gallery LOD, a longstanding collaborative exhibition group. In 2017 we were approached by Vida Museum & Arthall Directors Ulrika Vallien and Emilia Thor and invited to create an anniversary exhibition during the summer of 2019.

“LOD METALLFORMGIVNING 20 ÅR”

We, Gallery LOD wanted to create an anniversary exhibition that had elements of retrospective thinking, as well as show where we are now as individual contemporary artists. VIDA had given LOD the largest and most prominent exhibition hall. The huge room provided us with a fantastic opportunity but it was also a problem. We were not used to working with objects of a larger scale, and it was clear that curation of the exhibition would not work if we peppered the Art Hall with tiny pieces. The LOD Group had to solve how to exhibit all of our older pieces in a way that elevated them instead of allowing them to disappear in the large space.

Our curatorial solution to the large VIDA exhibition space was to create different theatre-like stage settings mimicking different rooms in an imagined home: “The Living Room”, “The Backyard”, “The Kitchen”, “The Bachelor Pad”, “The Dining Room” and “The Study” held our older pieces. As individual makers we also created a new body of work for VIDA Museum & Arthall that were placed around these room settings. The curatorial solution follows our philosophy at Gallery LOD which has long worked towards placing Applied Arts and Craft in private homes to be used in everyday life rather than end up as “shelf warmers” or lost in museum collections.

"The Dining Room"



"Wishing Well" (Red Wingnut Bowl) By Tobias Birger

Photo Christian Habetzeder

"The Kitchen"

Photo Christian Habetzeder



Engraved Silver Spoons and Cup by Tobias Birgersson & Pierce Healy.



“The Living Room”

Photo Christian Habetzeder



“Diabas & 925 Sterling Silver Bowl” By Tobias Birgersson.



Photo Christian Habetzeder

"The Living Room"

Photo Christian Habetzeder



"Cabbage Patch" by Tobias Birgersson

“Cinnober” by Tobias Birgersson



Photo Christian Habetzeder

## Five Gourd pieces for VIDA Museum & Arthall

I usually work with precious metals and have worked with the concept of preciousness and material hierarchies in many of my pieces. Since 2007 I have also been working with the Gourd and the Gourd form. For the VIDA exhibition I wanted to work with the pure form of the dried fruit. I have known Master bookbinder, Guildler and Artist, Wolfgang Bremer since the early 1980s. Wolfgang has been someone that I have turned to every time I needed something done outside of my field of expertise, especially regarding Gold leaf, paper and leather.

In 2018, Wolfgang and I worked on a large Gourd commission for a private collection, that led me to invite him to collaborate with me for the recent VIDA Gourds. For the VIDA exhibition I needed this series to be a conversation between Wolfgang and I that would end up with a family of individual Gourd pieces. Wolfgang and I looked for the specific form that I needed in China, Argentina and finally found them at a Gourd plantation in Turkey. The dialogue between Wolfgang and I continued for almost five months. All pigments are derived from ground semiprecious stones (mostly Cinnober stone) and then mixed into a paint by hand. Precious paint, Gold leaf and Clear Urushi lacquer created pieces where the decorative layer often became more precious than the original Gourd. It is this tension between material values that I anticipate I will continue to explore both in future work.

## “Cinnober” Miniseries by Tobias Birgersson

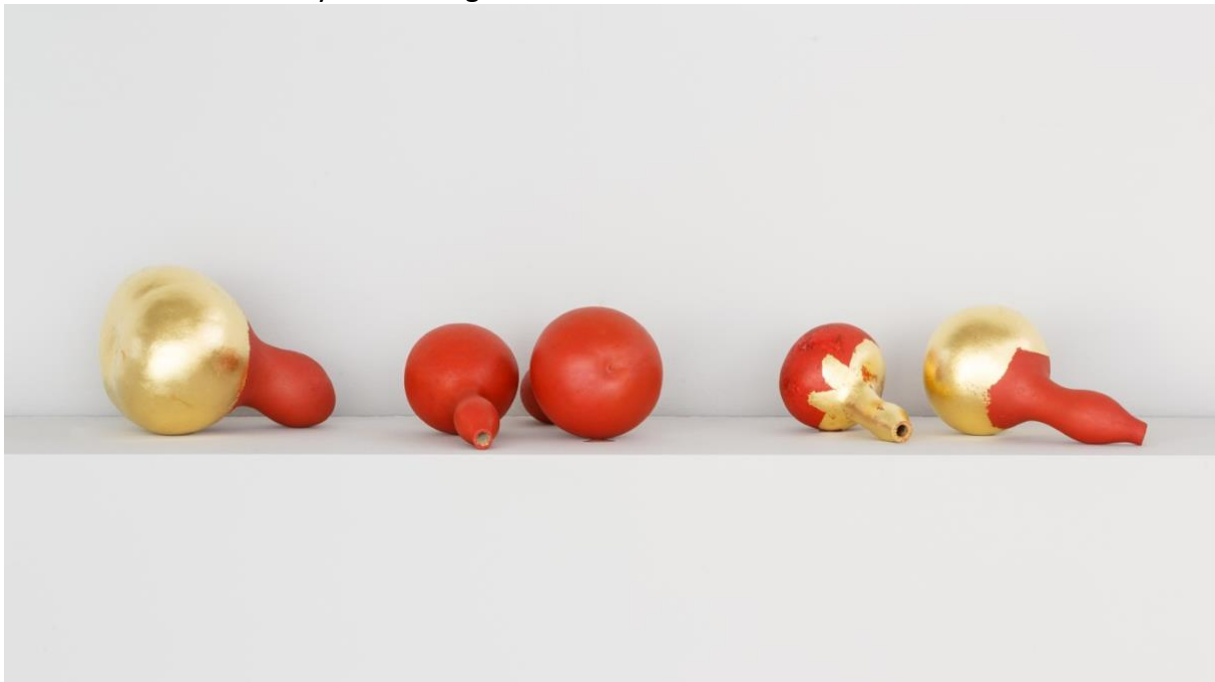


Photo Christian Habetzeder

I gave Artist's talks about the exhibition for the public, Press and "VIDAs Vänner" during the exhibition opening and during the summer when I traveled to the island of Öland.

VIDA Artist Talk by Tobias Birgersson



Photo Christian Habetzeder



Clear Urushi lacquer by Tobias Birgersson



Photo Christian Habetzeder

Cinnober paint, Gold leaf and clear Urushi lacquer by Tobias Birgersson.



Photo Christian Habetzeder

Cinnober and clear Urushi lacquer by Tobias Birgersson



Photo Christian Habetzeder