

Ascension

Ceramic Art installation by Dominic and Frances Bromley.

“In 2010 we created a sculpture titled *Pride of Soldiers* for the Dutch Ministry of Defence. The piece was commissioned to hang as a permanent work, above their boardroom table in the Princes Room in Utrecht. The aspects of working together, peace and security formed the guiding theme. Each of the multiple pieces of china in the resulting sculpture is the stylised form of a soldier with a density in the centre of the cluster that depicts a rearing heraldic lion: a key emblem for the Dutch nation.

During the installation of the piece, while looking down on the lit centre, elements of the sculpture gave us a desire to explore the concept further and this was where the idea for *Ascension* was born.

Much of our work is an evolution from one piece to the next, whether it's the result of exploring a material's properties, the refining of a sculptural form or the development of a concept. We value all elements of the build process, from initial sketches, through to computer renderings, engineering and mechanical principles, modelling in clay, mould creation, ceramic production, the physical build in the studio and the very installation itself. Inspiration can come at any stage.

In the sculpture we're creating for the Bernardaud Foundation Exhibition, there will be multiple human forms, each created from English fine bone china in our local Potteries in Stoke-on Trent, Staffordshire. Each will carry delicate sculpted detail and will be suspended in an arrangement as if moving up towards the light. The sculpture stirs very mixed and personal feelings for us, feelings that have evolved since its inception and will undoubtedly continue to develop as the piece becomes real and is unveiled in Limoges and around the world.”

Dominic and Frances Bromley.