



THOMAS BENECH

“From dancing the form, to sculpting the movement, I seek to fix the choreography into the volume. ”

Bend and twist the monotony of the straight line with a symbolic emotional charge, where balance and openings direct creative thought, through which I invite you to penetrate the poetry of my work.

The passion for sculpture awoke in Thomas Benech when he was only 8 years old, when he began carving acorns and pine bark to create small sculptures.

Native of France, he focused his studies on Fine Arts where he combined new work proposals with his passion for volume and illustration, thus projecting his professional future.

He has lived in Madrid for more than 16 years with several life experiences and exhibitions abroad.

While remaining attached to the plastic artists who are dear to him such as Tony Cragg, Barbara Hepworth, Martin Chirino, Eva Hild, Grégoire Scalabre or Antony Gormley, he continues to develop his own language by seeking new materials to tirelessly express his creativity.

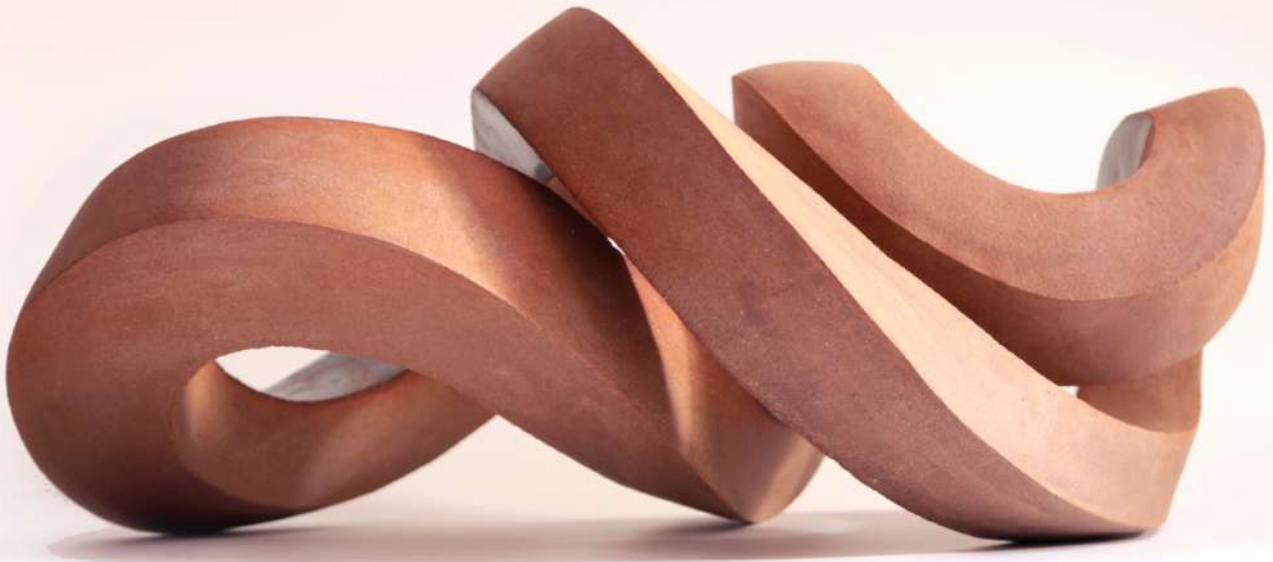
Thought into the box

Ceramic - High temperature (1280°C)

Six years ago, I started working on a new line using different types of grogged stoneware, creating my own recipes, mixing the clay with certain natural fibers to increase its resistance and bring to life medium-sized pieces that defy gravity, balance, and counterweights.



Curve 4 - (2022)
Dimensions: 32 x 32 x 34 cm



Curve 10 - (2022) - Dimensions: 30 x 20 x 15 cm

I try to bend and twist the monotony of the straight line where balance and tension can give birth to a symbolic emotional charge. It is through this play that I develop abstract pieces with a smooth, polished finish to highlight the edges and precisely define the overall line. I use clay for its clear connection with the earth and our roots, the closed line with its constant turns and changes as a representation of life, enamel marking stages and crystallizing specific moments. It is with this vocabulary that I seek in each piece an object of contemplation and meditation that can be manipulated and serve as support for an introspective moment.

It was in the suburbs of Paris, where I grew up, that I began to question modern architecture at a very young age, which was reduced to the simplest geometric shape, the cube. Faced with architectural poverty or a lack of imagination, I began to question these six walls that imprison us, the conscious and unconscious cells that confine us? What kind of nature can they have: social, family, or are they simply a reflection of our own fears? Are we capable of identifying these forms of imprisonment or will some remain invisible to ourselves?

It is from this reflection that I developed a sculptural path, finding through this line with four defined sides the possibility of making the monotony of the straight line disappear, inviting also to identify which of the cages limits our freedom the most: the external one or the one we have built to try to define ourselves?



Curve 15 - (2023) - Dimensions: 27 x 24 x 23 cm



Curve 8 - (2022) - Dimensions: 38 x 48 x 40 cm



Curve 16 - (2023) - Dimensions: 23 x 16 x 13 cm



Girovague 1 - (2023) - Dimensions: 55 x 19 x 13 cm



Curve 10 - (2022) - Dimensions: 30 x 20 x 15 cm



Curve 6 - (2022) - Dimensions: 38 x 48 x 27 cm



Curve 7 - (2022) - Dimensions: 29 x 37 x 27 cm



Curve 12 - (2022) - Dimensions: 31 x 27 x 25 cm



Curve 1 - (2021) - Dimensions: 32 x 36 x 27 cm



Curve 3 - (2021) - Dimensions: 27 x 22 x 25 cm

Carving a choreography

Solid Surface - Polyurethane - Paper

To find the gesture, from the first step to the second one, to rise up in the air or lower in height, to tighten the space or release it.

Eight years ago, I came into contact with contemporary dance where I discovered a relationship with the body and freedom of movement that no other activity had given me. It was such an important discovery for me that I spent several years searching for a visual form that could translate such an ephemeral creation as dance and movement into a lasting and static reality, such as sculpture.

Arabesque - (2023)

Dimensions: 44 x 44 x 31 cm

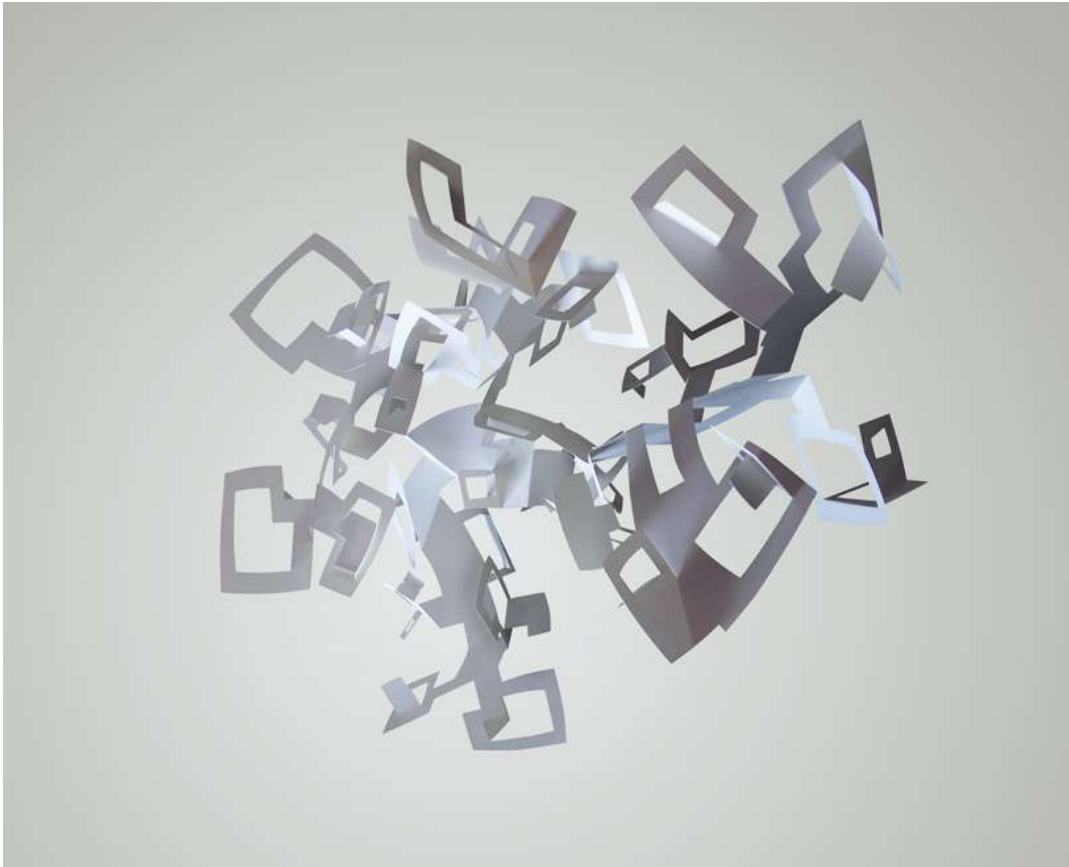




Sweet Wave - (2021) - Dimensions: 50 x 30 x 30 cm

After researching the possibilities on paper, I decided to search for a more durable material to reinforce this contradiction with what dance can be. I found in the characteristics of solid surface the possibility of working it by hand, cutting and thermoforming with the use of industrial ovens, finishing the process with the material crystallizing during its cooling. Based on previous work, I create the stages and steps to structure a choreography, including drawing, cutting, creating models and prototypes on paper like a kind of origami to form a sculpture. Each choreography should last a maximum of five minutes, which allows me to repeat the gestures and steps learned previously before the material cools. As the choreography unfolds, the piece comes to life.

Like with other materials, I am interested in the possibility of showing and valuing the creation process in the same work. Thanks to this material, I found the opportunity to fix all the stages of the process that occurred in the initial dance with its movements and steps to transfer them to a single solid and definitive piece.



Grand Battement - (2013) - Paper - Dimensions: 66 x 48 x 36 cm



Windows - (2020) - Solid Surface - Dimensions: 55 x 40 x 35 cm



Embrassée - (2023) - Solid Surface - Dimensions: 39 x 38 x 26 cm



En Dansant - (2021) - Solid Surface - Dimensions: 45 x 40 x 26 cm



Light Up - (2021) - Poliuretano - Dimensions: 200 x 200 x 200 cm



Amor Suspendido - (2019) - Poliuretano - Dimensions: 180 x 180 x 180 cm

Artistic career

Exhibitions

May 2023

Exhibition at the art fair LAAF, Lisboa (Portugal).

March 2023

Exhibition at the art fair Feira de Outono, Lisboa (Portugal).

November 2022

Exhibition at the art fair Feira de Outono, Lisboa (Portugal).

October 2022

Exhibition at the art fair Estampa, Madrid (Spain).

February - March 2022

Exhibition at Flecha art fair, Madrid (Spain).

October 2021

Exhibition at the Sculto art fair, Logroño (Spain).

October 2021

Collective exhibition with the Spanish Association of Painters and Sculptors, "Small Formats", Madrid (Spain).

May 2021

Collective exhibition of sculpture at the gallery Espacio Primavera, Madrid (Spain).

February 2021

Collective exhibition at the Yuri López Kullins Gallery, Mexico City (Mexico).

October 2020

Collective exhibition at the Yuri López Kullins Gallery, Madrid (Spain).

January 2020

Collective exhibition at the Yuri López Kullins Gallery, Madrid (Spain).

January - February 2016

Personal exhibition of drawings and paintings at the Casa a la Malicia, Madrid (Spain).

August 2012

Collective exhibition: "Hybrid". Presentation of a series of drawings at the DNA-project Gallery, Sydney (Australia).

March 2012

Solo exhibition of the "Face" series at the Triveca gallery, Madrid (Spain).

June 2007

Collective exhibition of sculpture in Élancourt, Paris (France).

July 2006

Solo exhibition of the works presented for the diploma in Angers (France).

January 2006

Collective exhibition with students from the Beaux-Arts École des Beaux-Arts, Angers (France).

July 2005

Collective exhibition with students from the Beaux-Arts École des Beaux-Arts, Angers (France).

June 2003

Collective exhibition in Versailles (France).

June 1999

Collective exhibition for the city hall of Élancourt (Paris, France).

June 1998

Collective exhibition for the city hall of Élancourt (Paris, France).

Studies

2006-2007

Stone carving sculpture workshop under the direction of Yukichi INOUE (Japan) in Paris (France).

2003-2006

École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Angers (France) with a specialization in visual communication. National Diploma in Fine Arts (DNAP) with honors from the jury.

2002-2003

Stone and clay sculpture workshop with Renée Moal as teacher in Versailles (France).

2002-2003

C3M Art School in Versailles (France).

2002

High school diploma as an independent candidate in Applied Arts, École Boulle, Paris, (France).

Press articles

2021

Article in the Magazine **Ceramica** N° 160

2021

Exhibition catalog for the Sculto contemporary art fair.

2021

Interview in the magazine www.infoceramica.com/2021/07/thomas-benech/

2020

Blog interview **TallerCerámicaJulioArraga**



Contact

www.thomasbenech.com

📍 Calle Inmaculada Concepción, 44, B3. 28019 Madrid (Spain)

✉ thomasbenech.art@gmail.com

📷 [@thomasbenech](https://www.instagram.com/thomasbenech)

☎ +34 678 023 622