

## Art is 'Heaven on Earth'

"The work of an artist is like an act of devotion. Soul and intellect flow through the artist's work, as well as individuality and the sum of all impressions from the artist's life." Iris Rousseau is still concentrated on her work, even while chasing volatile impressions. She has arrived at a point in her much deprived life, at which she wants to consider her work, turn to new goals, and break new ground. "Everything in this world is constantly changing," she states, "those values we once thought 'carved in stone' are now being drastically replaced by new ones. This is something one must not forget in one's artistic endeavour."

Due to the work of Iris Rousseau the small village of Elbdorf Hoopte on the dyke has risen to fame which now extends beyond the borders of Germany. "This is an inevitable result if one strives not to use a unilateral technique in this profession." Clay, granite, and bronze are "her" working materials from which she creates her conceptions and designs as a typically individual statement of tender hand and iron will.

This is yet another year in which Iris Rousseau again brings new interiors for sophisticated life-style ambience to the Homes & Gardens Show: flatteringly caressing and glistening ceramics with an enticingly beautiful form, classical models from various cultures shaped with modern and simple transforming methods. In addition there are vases, lights, bowls, frameworks, amphorae, wall pedestals and other consumer articles that are decorated with abstract and austere ornaments or tenderly embracing decorations which weave a dream fabric of naturalistic plant and vine adornments.

Clay is another material Iris Rousseau also loves to employ for figurine compositions, sculptures, and reliefs. Increasing numbers of prospective customers are interested in "Counterfeits of Prominence" on tonally glazed ceramic reliefs. On the walls and entrance halls of public buildings a number of portraits of prominent people from the areas of administration, economics and politics can already be admired.

The 1942 Munich-born artist also achieved an unexpected success with the creation of the cream-beige faience 'torso vase': "Eva".

*Dr. Schwandes, Home & Garden, Hamburg 1998*