

Artist: Paola Paleari  
Title: The Craftsman's Dream  
Date: 17.01.2022 – 15.03.2022  
Location: Palazzo San Giuseppe in Polignano a Mare, Italy

As part of the art fair Baitball 02, JIR SANDEL is pleased to present a solo presentation by curator and writer Paola Paleari. The project *The Craftsman's Dream* borrows its title from an 1889 poem by late Victorian designer Walter Crane, one of the luminaries of the Arts and Crafts movement. The poem is a protest against capitalistic manufacture and an attempt to make daily life more beautiful inspired by, but not in imitation of, the best examples of the art from the past.

Pottery - plates in particular - was an important component of the ideal Arts and Crafts interior as opposed to the industrial one. At the zenith of those principles, decorative plates are today often mass-produced and cheap gadgets that employ low-quality prints and materials, and yet are still widely used as items to embellish one's living space.

*The Craftsman's Dream* is comprised of a selection of ornamental plates that Paleari has collected over the past years, plus a number of plates designed and produced for the occasion. From being affordable but valuable pieces, meant to embellish the homes of ordinary people, a large part of decorative pottery has been inglobed in the very same capitalistic system that the Arts and Crafts movement intended to oppose.

Denmark has a long tradition of decorative plates, which is being affected by the evolution of taste and the changes in production modes. The intention behind this body of work is to present the various declinations of the platter as a symbolic object, to question its validity as a democratic source of beauty, and to actualize its sentimental nature through the creation of new designs.