Artistic Interpretation of Underwater Fauna and Flora Using Ceramic Materials in the Context of Sustainability

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The interaction between nature and humanity has been one of the fundamental sources of artistic inspiration throughout human existence. As in all branches of art, this relationship is also central to ceramic art. The relationship between humans, as meaning-making beings, and nature has led them to explore the natural world, draw upon its resources, meet their basic needs, and express their creativity through inspiration from nature. In a cultural context, this relationship has also enabled artists to develop their own artistic language through nature. Marine environments are among the areas affected by environmental problems.

This study aims to draw attention to issues such as marine species, their life cycles, and endangered species through ceramic art. Marine organisms, including tube worms, seagrasses, corals, and sea sponges, were researched and observed, and original ceramic works were created based on their forms, life processes, and the beauty of the underwater world. Despite the adverse conditions affecting marine environments, the struggle of living organisms to survive remains evident in many ways. Artistic applications using ceramic materials can raise public awareness of underwater fauna and flora. While marine pollution is a prominent theme in the works produced, careful consideration was given to the selection of materials and techniques used in the ceramic production process.

For example, recycled materials were used as extensively as possible in clay bodies and glazes. The aesthetic qualities and emotional impact of the artworks created within the scope of this study aim to raise awareness of nature, marine life, and marine ecosystems. The works invite viewers to reflect on these issues, reinforce the importance of environmental conservation, and encourage critical questioning.

Keywords: Ceramic art, marine biodiversity, underwater fauna and flora, environmental awareness, sustainability.

MİDUG Thematic Area: Related to WP3 – Living Laboratories, Circular Economy, and Youth.



Sinem Kara's ceramic artworks entitled *"Derin"* and *"Derin III"*.

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