

Grayson Perry

≺ Taste and Democracy 2004

Glazed ceramic, 41 x 26 (161/4 x 101/4)

'... For the background of this pot I did a painterly landscape, the cliché of what most people think art is, and I drew characters from the general public making various statements. In fact, the quotes came from many different people, including one of my own and some from friends and critics. There was 'Hairy Potter', which I think came from the TV presenter Jonathan Ross. 'The People's Princess' was very funny, and came from one of my friends. 'Grotesque Goldilocks' was, I think, from the film director Michael Winner. There's a beautiful one from a transvestite website, from this guy who wanted to watch me on the TV broadcast of the Turner Prize award ceremony. He hadn't told his wife he was a transvestite so when she noticed that something was recording and asked him what it was, he said, 'Top Gear', as that was on at the same time! I thought that was absolutely perfect: the most masculine programme was on at the same time that this transvestite wanted to watch me win the Turner Prize.'

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Arabic Stealth Bomber 2007

Gilded Ceramic, 50 x 50 x 4.5 (193/4 x 193/4 x 13/4)

'Islamic lustreware of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and the Hispano-Moresque tradition that followed, excelled in large, elaborate heraldic plates. They often featured a coat of arms, an image of a warrior on horseback, or a big ship. I wanted to make a stealth bomber into a motif for a plate, and I saw the plane as an equivalent to one of those big Islamic ships. I gave the plate the lustrous, pearlescent finish typical of a lot of Islamic ceramics. There's an irony, of course, in having a great symbol of American power on an Islamic-style plate...'

See overleaf

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