

Press kit



# Studio Pieter Stockmans

20.07.2020

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# Introduction

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Piet Stockmans is a Belgian visual artist, as well as the founder and designer at Studio Pieter Stockmans, which specialises in hard porcelain. This autumn, Stockmans turns 80. To celebrate this special birthday, he will present a new exhibition in the former metal warehouse of the Winterslag coalmine, now the C-mine cultural centre in Genk, where the Studio Pieter Stockmans is located. His birthday also coincides with ten years of collaboration between Stockmans and the site of the old mine. To mark the occasion, an exceptional A3-size book will also be printed in a run of 300 copies, including a special edition combined with a porcelain carrier.

Studio Pieter Stockmans is an example of a family business where quality, craftsmanship, love and expertise are passed on down the generations. Since 1987 the studio has been focusing on small, unique collections that are all handmade in the studio in Genk. The objects (crocery and vases) that originate from Studio Pieter Stockmans are the result of a combination of traditional craft production and a contemporary approach, and the quality of Stockmans' porcelain is amongst the very highest in the world. The studio has been known since the start for its experimental approach to limited series of porcelain. As a designer, Piet Stockmans is constantly pushing the boundaries of porcelain. He creates exceptional design objects that acquire a national and international reputation.



Among its other achievements, the studio designed and created the trophy for the Memorial Vandamme and the plates for the princely wedding in Monaco. Leading chefs from all over the world also like to come to the studio for their tableware. Studio Pieter Stockmans supplies tailor-made collections to restaurants with three Michelin stars in Belgium, Germany, France, the UK, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, the USA, and Switzerland. Luxury brands such as Dom Pérignon also enjoy working with the studio.

Piet Stockmans' work can also be seen in well-known museums such as the Victoria & Albert in London, the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. In 1988 Piet received the Staatsprijs voor de beeldende kunst, and he was the Cultural Ambassador of Flanders in 1995. In 1996 he received the prestigious Red Dot Award and two years later he received the Henry Van de Velde Prize for his entire oeuvre. The studio is still the only Belgian specialist in design for hard porcelain.

Although Piet Stockmans is still active in the studio, he handed over the daily management of the studio to his daughter Widukind in 2007. Frank Claesen has been designing for the Pieter Stockmans Studio since 1998 and is further expanding the Pieter Stockmans collection. Together with their team of six, they continue the special tradition of handmade hard porcelain.

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# The Studio Pieter Stockmans

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The porcelain art of the Studio Pieter Stockmans combines traditional production with a contemporary approach. The studio has been known for its experimental approach to limited series of porcelain since 1987. The studio constantly pushes the boundaries of porcelain and produces exceptional design objects of national and international renown. The Studio Pieter Stockmans collection consists of installations, vases, jewellery, business gifts and exclusive custom-made crockery. All pieces are completely handmade, and each product is provided with a stamp and a certificate of authenticity. This guarantees that the object is handcrafted, made in a small series, and originates from the studio of Pieter Stockmans Belgium. No two plates are alike. These differences also give the objects their unique character and a 'genuine Pieter Stockmans' is easily recognisable.

The studio at the former mining site of the C-mine in Genk is the only Belgian specialist in hard porcelain design. Each design is handmade from A-Z in the studio in Genk.

## **A family business full of expertise and passion**

Although Piet Stockmans is still active in the studio, he handed over the daily management of the studio to his daughter Widukind in 2007. Frank Claesen has been designing for the Pieter Stockmans Studio since 1998 and is further expanding the Pieter Stockmans collection. Together with their team of six, they continue to extend the special tradition of handmade hard porcelain.

## **Limited and unique collections**

It requires a lot of time and patience to produce a Pieter Stockmans product. Porcelain cannot be formed; on the contrary, it forms those who make it. There are seventeen separate actions required for the creation of each piece, and each action needs meticulous attention. Every step in the process contributes to the exceptional final result.

## **A sustainable product for many generations**

Hard porcelain is baked at 1400 °C. This high temperature and the specific atmosphere in the kiln result in a product that is snow-white and completely sintered. It is no longer porous, and you can use it and clean it unglazed. The absence of a glaze means that you do not leave fingerprints on it when serving, which is an undeniable advantage. Each product is subject to an individual technical approach. Due to the high temperature, the porcelain shrinks by 17% while being fired.

**'Stockmans Blue'**

Studio Pieter Stockmans is known for their crockery in white and a typical blue, which soon received the name Stockmans Blue. This colour can best be described as the blue of a Belgian summer sky, a hue Piet discovered while experimenting with colours. At a temperature of 1,400 °C, the cold blue is the only primary colour that doesn't burn in the kiln. The blue gives the virginal white of the porcelain a new, richer dimension.



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# Piet Stockmans the artist

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Piet Stockmans (°1940, Leopoldsburg) works as an industrial designer and a visual artist. He was a designer at Mosa Maastricht (NL) for 26 years. He taught at the Luka School of Arts in Genk (BE) for 29 years, where he was part of the Product Design department. From 1983 to 1985 he taught at the A.I.V.E. in Eindhoven (NL). In 1987 he founded Studio Pieter Stockmans, the Belgian specialist in hard porcelain. He was co-founder of IDEM and initiator of the Pasfoundation in 2014. He has given guest lectures all over the world.

Piet Stockmans' work can be seen in well-known museums such as the Victoria & Albert in London, the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. In 1988 he received the Staatsprijs voor de beeldende kunst, and in 1995 he was Cultural Ambassador of Flanders. In 1996 he received the prestigious Red Dot Award and two years later he received the Henry Van de Velde Prize for his entire oeuvre. The studio is still the only Belgian specialist in design for hard porcelain. Besides his own gallery in Genk, Piet Stockmans is also represented by Spazio Nobile in Brussels.



## HOW NICE IT IS TO BE CREATIVE

How nice it is to be creative,  
with a simple material like clay.  
I've been working with it all my life  
and the new ideas keep coming.  
How wonderful is it to be  
every day with this white gold,  
the porcelain.  
Always with the same philosophy  
of tangibility and vulnerability.

Piet Stockmans

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# Crockery

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Studio Pieter Stockmans is known for its unique tableware in porcelain that is of a quality among the very highest in the world. It is resistant to just about any cleaning product and abrasive, and is microwave and dishwasher safe. Its high quartz content makes it very resilient. It is handmade porcelain that is brought to the table as a gift and passed on for generations.

Studio Pieter Stockmans has designed tailor-made collections for star chefs such as Peter Goossens (BE), Alain Ducasse (FR), Pierre Gagnaire (FR), Mauro Colagreco (FR), Thomas Keller (USA), Jannis Brevet (NL), and Massimo Bottura (IT). Luxury brands such as Dom Pérignon also like to collaborate with the studio.

The studio makes crockery in small, unique collections that are all handmade in the studio in Genk, and are available for all to purchase in the shop or online.



Design: Piet Stockmans



Design: Frank Claessen

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# Shop & Webshop

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Unique tableware and limited editions from the Studio Pieter Stockmans are available for all to buy, in the physical shop as well as online in the webshop.

On the 1st of August, the studio will also be launching a new website with webshop.

## Opening hours shop

MA & DI on appointment  
WO & DO 10-17h  
VR 10-15h  
ZA 14-17h  
1st Sunday of the month, 14-17h

## STUDIO PIETER STOCKMANS

C-MINE 100  
3600 GENK  
BELGIË  
T +32-(0)89-382 362

In 2020, the shop will exceptionally be open every Sunday in July and August.

## Webshop

[www.pietstockmans.com](http://www.pietstockmans.com)





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## Urns & Souvenirs

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In addition to its crockery, the Studio Pieter Stockmans also makes urns, and Piet had a special reason for including urns in his assortment.

Piet Stockmans: "At first glance, the urns in the studio's range may seem a little crazy. But it is a well-considered choice. We wanted to give people the opportunity to give the ashes of a loved one a special place. The urn then becomes something that people consciously look for. The choice of an urn then no longer belongs to the list of purchases and decisions that go with a funeral. The urn becomes something personal."



Currently, Studio Pieter Stockmans offers two basic designs, both of which can be further personalised. One design refers to the bell jar under which, a few decades ago, statues of saints – or often a statue of Mary – were displayed on the chimney. A second design remains pure. The urn is cylindrical and the porcelain is deliberately left unglazed. This gives the urn a very tactile appearance. Piet Stockmans wanted to design an urn that people can and want to take in their hands. In this way they quite literally maintain a form of physical contact with the deceased.

As well as creating the urn, Studio Pieter Stockmans can also process the ashes of a deceased person into a unique jewel. It is an ideal way to obtain a tangible and tactile memento of a loved one. In 2020, for example, Piet Stockmans processed the ashes of a deceased person into porcelain clay, resulting in a small round white disc with particles from the ashes of the deceased on the surface.

When the manager of a large company passed away, all those present at the funeral received a porcelain element that was placed on their chairs together with a pencil. They were asked to write something on the porcelain element about the deceased. In the company's headquarters, these porcelain elements were then hung up like the pages from a notebook.



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# Exhibition

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On the occasion of Piet Stockmans' 80th birthday, the designer will present new work in the former metal warehouse of C-mine in Winterslag (Genk), where the Studio Pieter Stockmans is located. In addition to a large installation in the middle of the 1200 m<sup>2</sup> space, there will also be new wall and floor installations.

Frank Claesen, who has been designing for Studio Pieter Stockmans since 1998, will be presenting an "Ode to Piet Stockmans" on the occasion of this anniversary exhibition. In the past year he has worked on six new designs in which he has converted a typical Piet Stockmans element into a porcelain object. Each design has its own story.

Both designers will also present some limited editions.

On the occasion of the exhibition, an exceptional A3-size book will also be published, printed in a run of 300 copies and with a special edition combined with a porcelain carrier.

**7 August 2020 to 30 June 2021**

**Piet Stockmans and Frank Claesen will both be present on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August, from 2pm to 5pm**

**Free admission**

**STUDIO PIETER STOCKMANS**

**C-mine 100 bus 2**

**3600 Genk-Winterslag**

**Opening hours**

Wednesday & Thursday from 10 am to 5 pm

Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday and every 1st Sunday of the month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**THE STUDIO WILL EXCEPTIONALLY BE OPEN EVERY SUNDAY IN AUGUST FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM.**

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# Location

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The Studio Pieter Stockmans has been located at the C-MINE site in Genk since 2010. These are the former mine buildings of the Winterslag coalmine. The studio is located in the former metal warehouse in a building that was designed in 1905.

The building houses the porcelain factory as well as the shop and exhibition space. All items by the Studio Pieter Stockmans are designed and handmade in this building.

It is also possible to rent the space for meetings, photo shoots, and parties...

**STUDIO PIETER STOCKMANS****C-mine 100 bus 2****3600 Genk-Winterslag****BELGIUM**

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