

Let There



Sculptor Elisa Uberti in her studio at Ateliers Joret, an industrial outpost home to more than 40 artists and craftspeople in Roubaix, France.

Elisa Uberti

BY REBECCA AARON

Elisa Uberti is a French designer whose forte is mixing lights with ceramics. Her signature lamps are sculptures first and functional lighting pieces second. Uberti's practice focuses on the entire form of a piece, whether that be one of her ceramic lamps or one of the never-before-seen chairs she plans on firing soon. A cardinal inspiration for Uberti is 20th-century sculptor André Borderie and his designs of the fifties and sixties. She shapes her vision while keeping the organic architecture of the seventies in mind as well. These influences are on full display with her household lighting fixtures that are meant to feel like small illuminating dwellings in their own right. These "small protective houses" are made of white, red and black chamotte, cooked at different temperatures depending on Uberti's desired color. They not only intimately brighten rooms, but highlight the distinctly organic and soft nature of ceramic.

Uberti began sculpting when she was expecting her second child. Being on the brink of motherhood unmistakably informed the rounder and more "heartwarming" shapes reflected in her pieces. This was just the initial flame that ignited Uberti's passion for rounded edges in organic architecture, exploring the idea of comfort in a round universe, similar to the "womb of the mother." Currently, her lamps are exhibited at the Galerie Philia in Walker Tower in New York City and she has an exclusive lamp in preparation for Collectible in Brussels in May. She is also gearing up for a solo show at the end of the year in Antwerp in the am designs gallery. While Uberti has become renowned for her organic, contemporary lighting fixtures, designs with new shapes and new household furnishings are ready to bake.

COURTESY OF ELISA UBERTI