

HAND IN HAND

Ceramicist Ólöf Erla Bjarnadóttir and mixed media designer Margrét Guðnadóttir learned that good ideas come from great collaboration when they paired up for the 2014 DesignMarch festival.

Ceramicist Ólöf Erla Bjarnadóttir and mixed media designer Margrét Guðnadóttir from Kirsuberjatréð, a store in downtown Reykjavík run by 12 artists and designers, came up with the idea for these kitchen utensils when they started collaborating in the lead-up to this year's DesignMarch, Iceland's annual design festival.

Made from porcelain and the wood of the basket willow, grown on Margrét's property in Skorradalur, West Iceland, the utensils come in several different types, including salad spoons and ladles. The project is a labor of love with much care going into both making the individual pieces and ensuring that they match in form, color and functionality.

Ólöf starts by hand molding the spoons from porcelain in her palm or on a potter's wheel. Then she glazes the spoons, using blue, green and brown tones, and then fires them. Next, Margrét carves the handles to fit each piece.

Ólöf, who graduated from the Icelandic College of Art and Crafts (now the Iceland Academy of the Arts) in 1982, has been working with porcelain for the last 15 to 20 years while Margrét studied design, textiles and basket weaving in the United States and mostly works with paper, reed and other natural materials.

By Zoë Robert. Photo by Áslaug Snorradóttir.

