



## PORCELAINE DU LOT VIREBENT

Depuis 1924





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# HERITAGE



## XIX Century

Sons of the chief architect of the city of Toulouse, the Virebent brothers registered a patent in 1831 that would revolutionise the manufacture of bricks, enabling the easy creation of cornices and caryatids. By combining this process with multiple piece moulds, they are able to deliver a building facade within a month of an order being placed.

## XX Century

In 1924 Henri Virebent, the grandson, opened his factory in Puy-l'Évêque. The latter produced doorknobs, bottle stoppers, insulating material and components for the electrical industry... In 1960, with plastic becoming widespread, Virebent launches into the art of entertaining and decoration. The firm begins a collaboration with designers. Today, some of their models form part of the collections exhibited at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs (Museum of Decorative Arts) in Paris.



## XXI Century

Virebent switches direction, whilst continuing its historical collections and the creation of new lines with contemporary designers. It develops an exclusively manual expertise and trains up its teams to master the skills and processes for craftsmanship par excellence at the service of the big names in decoration.

2001  
National Prize for Small-Scale  
Dynamics

This prize is awarded to a small company, which demonstrates its ability to create jobs, break new ground, as well as perpetuate and pass on its expertise.

2006  
Prize for Female/Male Equality

This prize rewards companies that have implemented a voluntarist and efficient approach in terms of female and male equality.

2007  
Living Heritage Company

A label awarded to companies in possession of a heritage comprising a rare degree of expertise, focusing on the mastery of traditional techniques.

# MATERIALS

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## PORCELAIN

A 1,400° firing process gives porcelain its hardness, making it ideal for objects for intensive use. Its high resistance to abrasion associated with its thin sections make it particularly suited to crockery. Vitrification at high temperature also enables a level of translucency that favours the manufacture of lighting and tea light holders.

## STONWARE

At 1,300° degrees, stoneware is an impermeable clay not susceptible to frost heave, favouring the creation of pieces designed for the outdoors. Its good mechanical resistance in thick sections is suited to the manufacture of large pieces like stools or bowls. By combining different firing atmospheres and a sound knowledge of enamels, it is possible to obtain a wide spectrum of colours and effects.



## EARTHENWARE

This material is compatible with various shaping techniques from casting to gauging to pressing. Earthenware offers a great freedom of form and volume. The possibilities for multiple firing of the enamel open up a wide spectrum of colour and nuance, which is especially suited to vases and bowls.

## PLASTER

Reserved for indoor use. In a silicone mould for the sculptor, plaster ensures an accurate reproduction of details and surfaces. Its lack of firing favours the creation of large ornamental pieces with complex forms. The possibility of a painted or patinated finish enables products like wall lights or ceiling lights to be adapted to a wealth of decors and architectural projects.



# KNOW-HOW



## MODELLING

Managed by a chief modeller, the Virebent moulding studio uses sculpture, engraving and turning techniques, which are necessary for creating a model or prototype for evaluation from sketches or a plan. Using the initial model as a base and incorporating plaster, resin or silicone, Virebent designs the necessary tooling for manufacturing a one-off or production piece from plaster and ceramics.

## MANUFACTURE

The speciality of our manufacturing lies in the control of the necessary temperatures and atmospheres when working the 3 clays, porcelain, stoneware and earthenware. Used as a slip or plastic paste it is suited to the techniques of casting, gauging and pressing. These clays and their implementation enable the technical and artistic constraints of the various projects entrusted to them to be satisfied.



## ENAMELLING

Precursors of enamels with special effects on porcelain, for several years Virebent has been developing texture colours, relying on its own research and input from external consultants. Beyond the spray applications for multicoloured enamelling or applications per zone, it adapts its processes to obtain special surface or material effects.

## DECOR

In addition to the classic decor techniques with a brush for exceptional pieces, or chromolithographs for the accurate reproduction of a motif, our studio is developing a work in enamel with a base of pigments and oxides at high temperature. It breaks new ground through the perfecting of processes exclusive of airbrush application with a pad...



# « TRAVAIL À FAÇON »



## FOCUSING

Virebent places at your disposal its practical knowledge and its unique mastery of porcelain, stoneware and earthenware, to support you in the development of your projects. From the creation of the model to the design of the matrix and the moulds, the Virebent technicians model clays, enamels and decor in a bid to produce series that are faithful to your creations.

## RESEARCH

Heir to a tradition based on expertise, Virebent, in collaboration with external consultants, is developing research into clays and their firing processes, as well as enamels and their effects. It also breaks new ground in the manufacturing process in a bid to find surface effects and texture renderings reserved for one-off pieces or to adapt to series production.



## PROTOTYPE

Working with both the one-off piece and series production, Virebent offers real relevance in the creation of a prototype with a view to a production. Its studio for modelling and casting plaster creates and corrects rough shapes and models according to a plan or sketch. Its exclusively manual expertise offers a wide selection of materials, textures and enamels in the creation of sample pieces

## SERIE

Reconciling the excellence of expertise with manufacturing requirements, enables Virebent to adhere by the creation of prototype and pre-series as much as production in numbers. Its integrated moulding studio, its differentiated casting benches and its gas or electric firings, offer production capacities based on an entirely manual expertise, guaranteeing high quality craftsmanship.





# FIND US



Puy-l'Évêque is located 30 kilometers West of Cahors, towards Villeneuve sur Lot...It is in the heart of the vineyards of Cahors.

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