POLY-NATION

Poly-nation is a site-specific installation at the seasonal ice rink in Da Onlanden wetland (Roderwolde, Drenthe) in a group exhibition titled "Haunted by Waters", organised by Into Nature, Netherlands. The project imagines a multispecies tribunal that negotiates rights for the more-than-human world, comprising watercolour paintings on Wasli paper, clay tablets in outdoor bird baths, and a wildflower meadow.

Bird-woman creatures which I call Chthonic Beings are inspired by Yoginis and Yakshinis. Yoginis are powerful female deities with animal and human heads who embody natural forces, wisdom, and transformation, and by Yakshinis, female nature spirits and guardians of sacred places who offer prosperity and abundance. Chthonic Beings take on the identities of endangered birds from Da Onlanden (including Hen Harrier, Northern Lapwing, Red Kite, Black-tailed Godwit, Horned Grebe).They take on positions and stances that pose a direct challenge to docile models of femininity and of nature as something to be managed. Ferocious and shape-shifting, they serve as mothers, companions, custodians, and intermediaries negotiating nature's rights.

These negotiations are inscribed on clay tablets in a speculative script derived from root systems, river networks, and the venation of leaves and insect wings. This fabulative visual language mirrors the growth, divergence, interconnection and entanglement as seen in the natural world . The tablets document the legal recognition of bees, bird groups, and their territories, and sit in bird baths at the heart of the ice rink, doubling as sculptural plinths and gathering sites for both human and more than humans. Wildflowers, planted along the baths in the shape of the tablets' evolving alphabet, also extend into mown paths, the script is scaled to the size of a walking body. You cannot read it from within; you have to walk it to know it exists, tracing the branching relationships. The script isn't fixed, and isn't meant to be solved, the audience is given not an answer, but a vantage point onto their own not-knowing.

Realised in consultation with botanists, a nature rights activist, and the local community, the surrounding wildflower corridor around the perimeter of the ice-rink improves pollinator habitat at the site. The meadow also becomes a reciprocal gesture of mourning, a lament for what is already lost or edging toward extinction — recalling the rink as a place where skating was once possible every winter.



Drone shot of the Ice-Rink. Designed paths lead to the heart of the ecological intervention where clay tablets are placed in birds baths. Flowers around the perimeter can be witnessed.





This picture is captures one of the moment during the opening of the exhibition.



Drone shot of the Tribunal, local wild flowers are planted in fictious alphabets around the clay tablets placed in bird baths.















Documentation of the local wild flowers growing from the seeds planted around the perimeter of the ice-rink



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Clubhouse next to ice rink, where 5 paintings of Chthonic Beings are displayed.



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Paintings



Godwit's Ark

Watercolour and gouache on paper
23.5 x 32 in | 59.7 x 81.3 cm
2026









Water dance of Horned Grebes

Watercolour and gouache on paper
23.5 x 32 in | 59.7 x 81.3 cm
2026









Harassment of Hen Harriers

Watercolour and gouache on paper
23.5 x 32 in | 59.7 x 81.3 cm
2026















Keeper of Eggs

Watercolour and gouache on paper
23.5 x 32 in | 59.7 x 81.3 cm
2026





Holder of Featherland

Watercolour and gouache on paper
23.5 x 32 in | 59.7 x 81.3 cm
2026









Clay Tablets

The script on these clay tablets is a speculative, ever-evolving, open-ended writing system whose forms are derived from the dendritic structures of root systems, tree branches, river networks, the venation of leaves and insect wings, and the sounds of birds and insects.

This branch-like form is conceptually grounded in growth, divergence, and interconnection, mirroring how ecological relationships extend, split, and remain entangled. Characters unfolds like a branching form evoking organic systems of expansion, circulation, and exchange. The script further imagines an attunement to non-human sensory worlds, particularly the expanded capacities of other species to perceive sound, light, and environmental signals beyond human range. Through processes of listening and translation, these multispecies soundings are inscribed as glyphs, forming a visual-phonetic system.

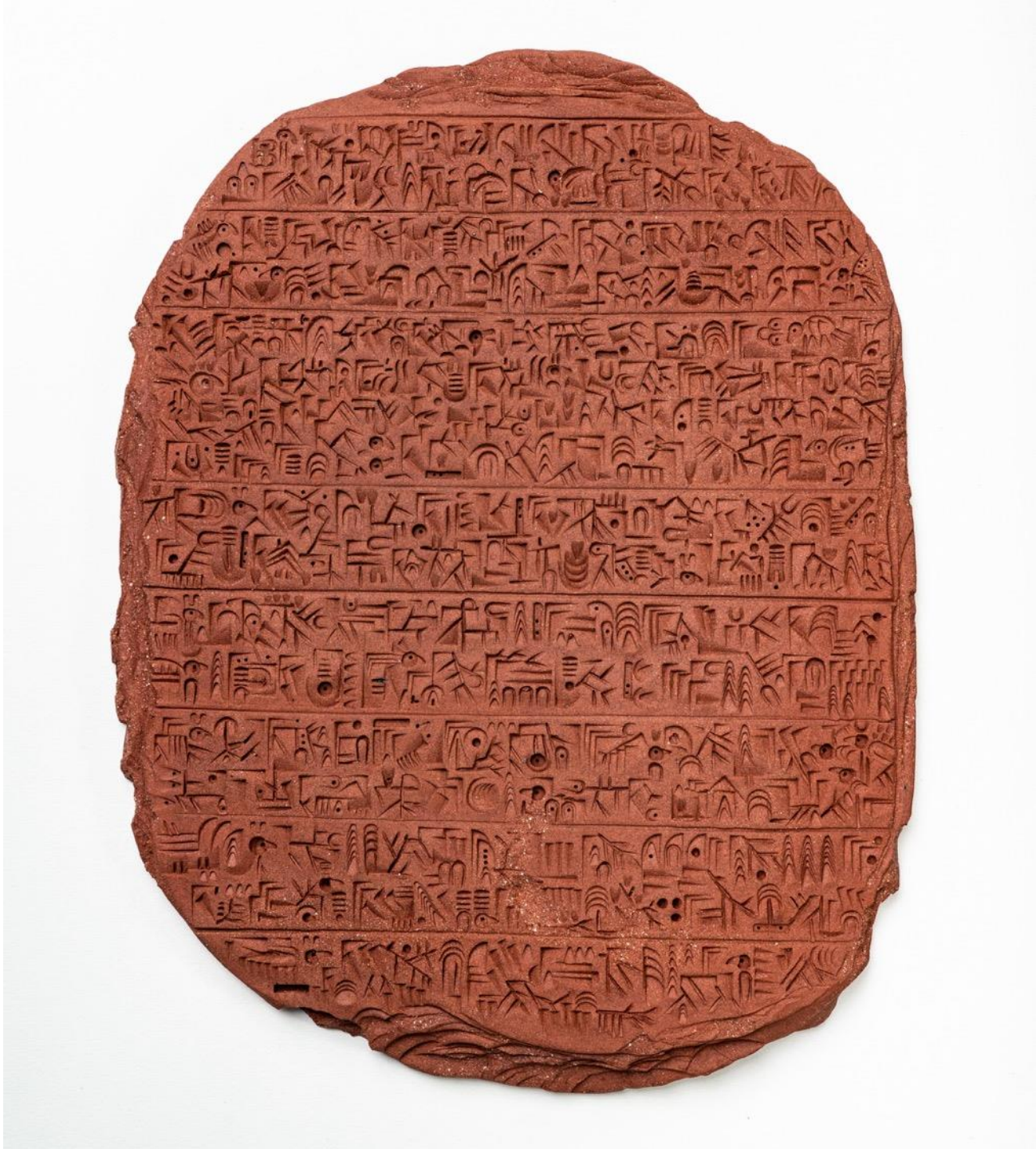
It functions as a narrative device that furthers the storytelling within the world of Chthonic Beings, giving form to otherwise untranslatable voices and enabling the articulation of multispecies agency, memory, and governance.



ceramics (unglazed)
10.5 x 7.5 in
2026



ceramics (unglazed)
10 x 7.5 in
2026



ceramics (unglazed)
9.75 x 7.75 in
2026





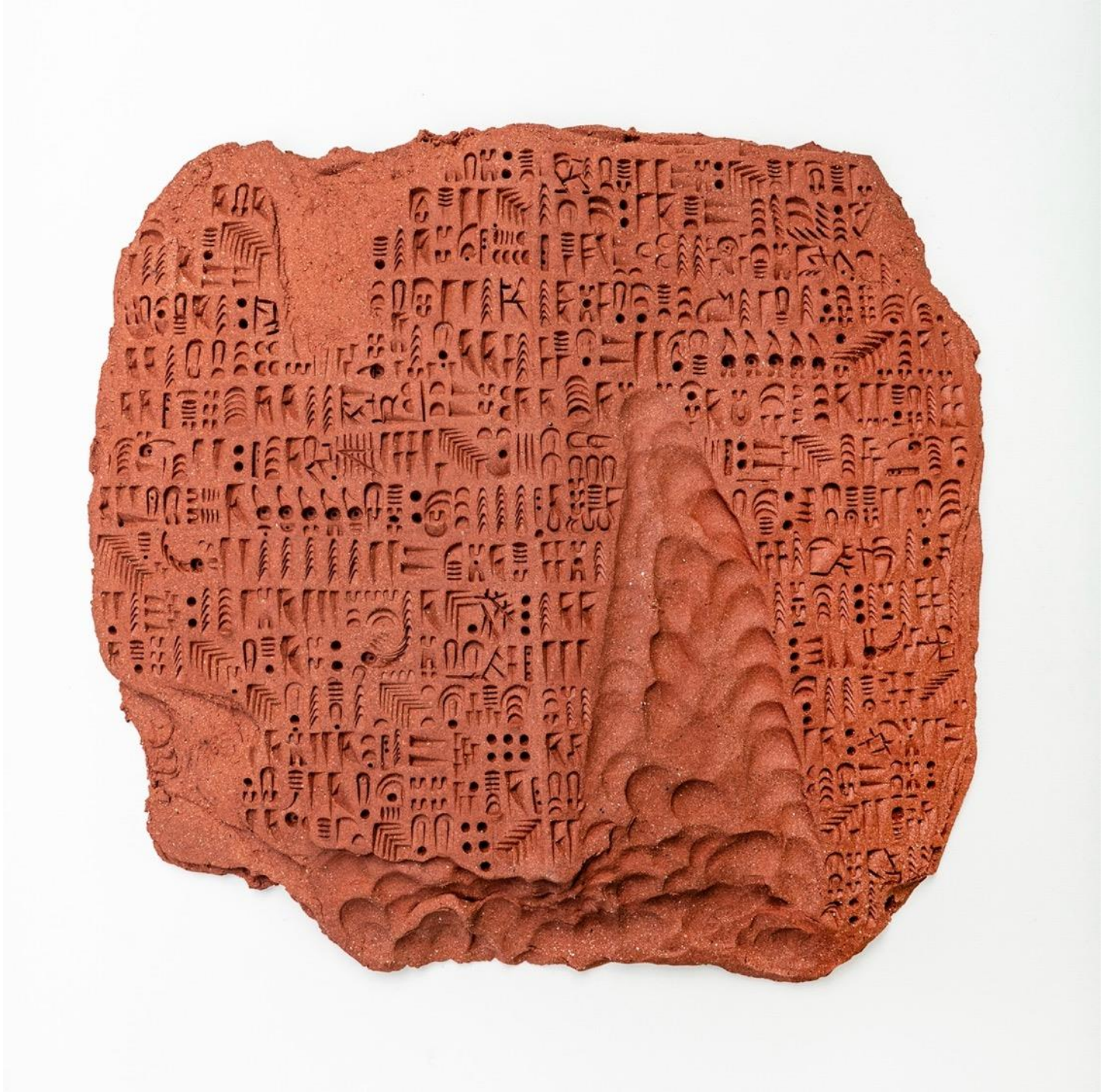
ceramics (unglazed)
7.25 x 9 in
2026



ceramics (unglazed)
9 x 7 in
2026



ceramics (unglazed)
7.75 x 7.75 in
2026



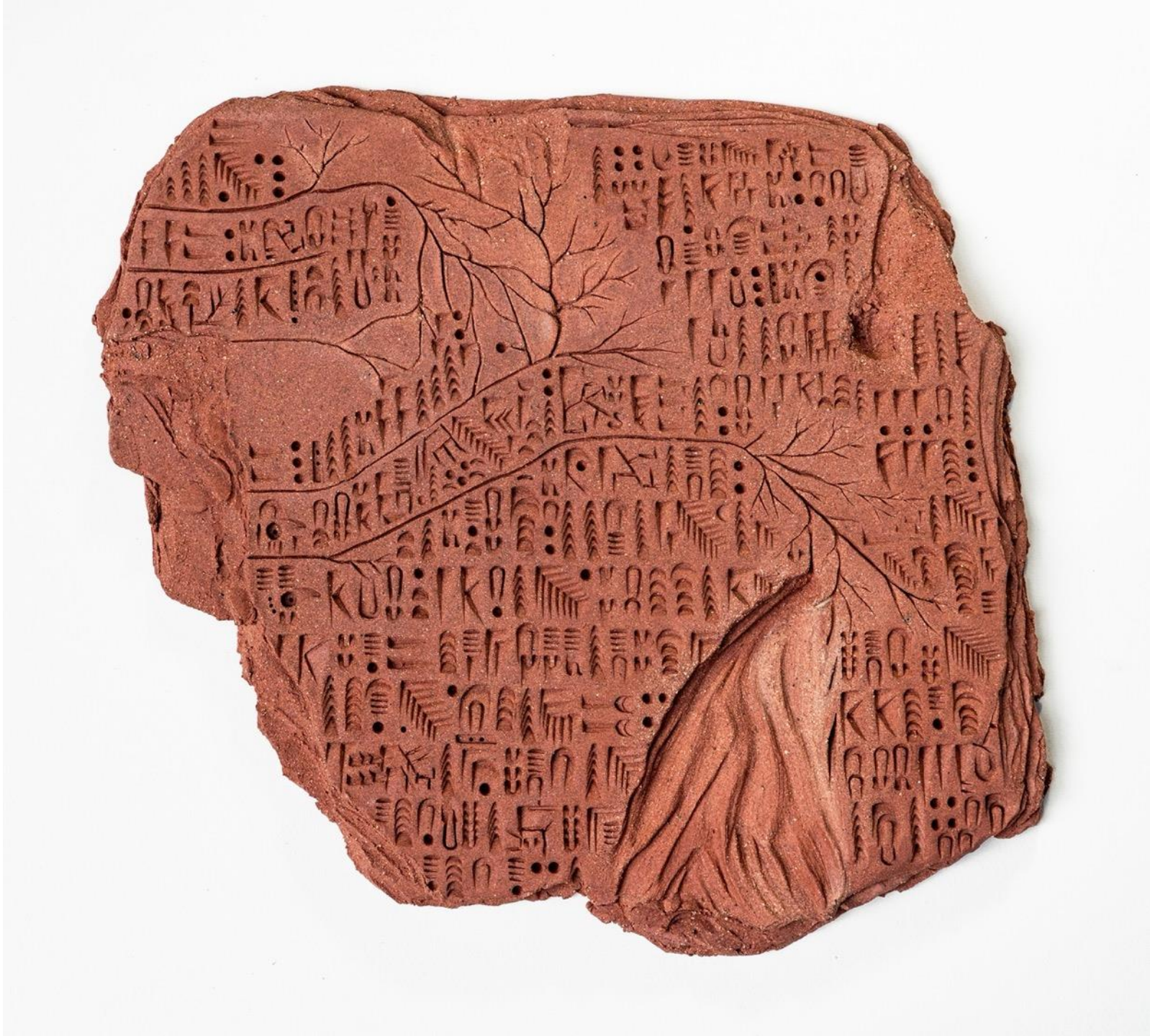
ceramics (unglazed)
8.5 x 9 in
2026



ceramics (unglazed)
9.25 x 7.75 in
2026



ceramics (unglazed)
9 x 7.75 in
2026



ceramics (unglazed)
7.5 x 7.75 in
2026

Thank you for your attention.