



Inv. no. MK 92

AXEL SALTO (1889–1961)  
SPHERICAL VASE, 1958  
STONEWARE, ROYAL COPENHAGEN PORCELAIN MANUFACTORY

H: 66.3 CM

In the 1950s, Axel Salto created some of his most sculptural stoneware forms, including the *Spherical vase*. Named after its shape, the vase rises up to an impressive 66.3 cm. The top of each sphere is decorated in the fluted style, while the rest of the body is left undecorated. The entire vase is glazed in the so-called *Blåmusling* glaze, flowing across the fluted decoration in shades of light brown.

The Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Manufactory developed the *Blåmusling* glaze especially for Salto, who wanted a powerful and dramatic glaze for the large and distinctive works he created in the 1950s.<sup>1</sup> Up until this point, Salto had used glazes that were already part of the factory's production. This new, special blue glaze was very well suited to all three signature styles, the 'fluted', 'budding' and 'sprouting' style. Perhaps this is why Salto was practically alone in using this glaze, which got its official name because its exquisite shades of blue and white were reminiscent of the shell of a blue

mussel.

Sadly, we know little about the creation of the *Spherical vase*, but it is likely to be a unique piece.<sup>2</sup> Salto produced very few one-of-a-kind works at The Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Manufactory because he often made plaster moulds of his individual models, enabling them to be reproduced. C.L. David acquired the vase for his collection a few years prior to his death in 1960. Notably, the *Spherical vase* is also one of Salto's last works: he died the year after C.L. David, in 1961.

<sup>1</sup> Susanne Bruhn and Pia Wirnfeldt (eds.): *Axel Salto. Stentøjsmesteren*, CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art, Middelfart 2017, p. 155.

<sup>2</sup> It should be pointed out that Salto worked with spherical vases over many years, including triple spheres. See, for example, *Vase, 1945*, CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art, inv.no. GRH18007.

Published in:

Lars Dybdahl in Kjeld von Folsach and Nana Lund (eds.): *Dansk kunst i Davids Samling – fra Philipsen til Saxbo*, København 1995, cat.no. 71, pp. 166-167;

Susanne Bruhn and Pia Wirnfeldt (eds.): *Axel Salto - stentøjsmesteren*, CLAY Keramikmuseum, Middelfart 2017, cat.no. 381, p. 185;