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& the participants of the summer school

Beautiful Traces

LiLa participants and local residents were asked to find interesting, eye-catching surfaces in order to later create an imprint by applying and pressed clay. Our host Dmitry Alekseev called these clay objects, Traces of Time. As many imprints were created from the ancient tools and other paraphernalia used by ancestors, the name given by Dmitry is highly appropriate and, in a sense, conveys his personal attitude towards this village. Local children also participated in the process of making “traces”. They happily discovered that everything around them can be beautiful; we just do not notice it. Is not this the basis for harmonious living with nature, to be able to admire even the most inconspicuous details of it? This is exactly what I tried to achieve in this project. After firing, ceramics became orange in colour because of the high content of iron in the local clay. Some details were subsequently covered with a grey glaze in order to slightly emphasize the relief and recall the colour that existed before the burning of the clay.

*Komi local clay,
glazes burning at 1000°C
Installation, 200x90cm, 2018
Images: Vladimir Durnev*

