



**Bernard Kerr**

*LEXICON* – new work in ceramics

4 May – 3 June, 2007

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In his solo exhibition next month, Bernard Kerr is to exhibit a major body of work in the ceramics medium at Gallows Gallery.

This exhibition explores the notion of a language of ceramics, and Kerr's exploration of clay looks at the expression, grammar and structure of the medium in 3-dimensional form and refers to the process of transforming the earth and crushed minerals into utilitarian and decorative domestic objects.

In a self-referential way, Kerr uses the metaphors of his own working life in a dialogue with ceramics. He does this by highlighting the links between our domestic and cultural spaces (how we live), in relation to nature and the environment (where we live). Being a full-time art teacher at Scotch College and then at work in his studio set in the hills, become contrasts that are reflected by pieces that fit into different genre's in the ceramic spectrum.

Kerr's surfaces and imagery are inspired by the natural physical environment. The indigenous flora and the ancient eroded landscape of Western Australia inspire his 'vessel forms', which seek to express a unique Australian quality, whilst 'ceramic collage' pieces reference traditional landscape painting in a craft medium. The 'still-life' works on the other hand, refer to histories of domesticity, the tradition of still-life painting and its associated symbolism.

Bernard Kerr completed his Master of Visual Arts from Curtin University in 1994, and has an extensive background in lecturing at a tertiary level and secondary school teaching and has been on the Syllabus Committee for TEE art at the Curriculum Council for many years. He currently holds the position of Curriculum Leader for the Arts at Scotch College in Swanbourne. He has delivered conference papers at the 7<sup>th</sup>,

8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> National Ceramics Conferences and co-ordinated the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference 'EDGE' in Perth in 1999. He has also published several international journal articles concerning Western Australian ceramics alongside regular participation in group exhibitions and his work is held in a number of government, private and corporate collections .