

Artist Statement – Sandra Black

I have been a practicing ceramic artist for over 30 years. My work has involved both the making and part time teaching of ceramics and business practice for visual artists at various TAFES and Universities in Australia and over seas. For the past 20 years I have lived and worked from my home studio in south Fremantle a beautiful location close to the ocean.

Porcelain for me is the most seductive of all clays. While often difficult to work with, its whiteness, translucency, density and surface qualities more than compensate for any problems. Thematically, I pursue simple forms to carry the elaborate surface treatments. In past years I have created geometric patterns to break up the surfaces to carry the piercing. Recent works however have included more organic carved surfaces, sometimes combined with subtle colour variations in layered slips. Other works have been thrown vessels drawing inspiration from water and its containment. This is seen in the "Ripple Series".

Pierced Porcelain and thrown porcelain – technical data

Vessels are slipcast from one piece drop out moulds made from solid wheel thrown clay shapes. Once removed from the mould, the thin walled vessels are trimmed & lightly banded horizontally to help lay out patterns. Low relief carving is done with a surgical blade and the holes drilled using a dental bit and Dremel drill. While dry the works are cleaned and sponged with steel wool. A low bisque of 900°C enables the pieces to be soaked in water and polished with wet and dry silicon carbide paper. The pieces are then fired in an electric kiln to 1220°C (2228°F). A final polish is done to give a smooth silky surface.

Thrown works are assembled then glazed after bisque with either a satin white, celadon or crackle glaze. They are reduction fired to 1300 degrees in a gas kiln

Sandra Black

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Education

1970 WA Teachers Certificate - Art Education, Nedlands Secondary Teachers College
1975 Associateship in Art Teaching - WA Institute of Technology (Curtin University)

Professional Affiliations

1987-88 Member Visual Arts & Crafts Panel - WA Dept for the Arts
1986-90 Board Member Craftwest, Vice President 1990
1994- present Founding member Ceramic Arts Association of WA, President 1994-6
1998- 2001 Adjunct Researcher, School of Art, Curtin University
1998-2001 Elected representative - Craft Mark Panel, Craft Australia
2003- 2006 Panel Member - ArtsWA

Solo Exhibitions

29 solo exhibitions since 1976 in Australia, New Zealand, Germany and USA including:

1988 Fremantle Arts Centre, WA Festival exhibition, February
1988 Masterworks, Auckland, NZ
1989 Focus Exhibition, Art Gallery of WA
1991 Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
Boise State University, Idaho, USA
Gallery 8, LaJolla, San Diego, USA
1992 Gallerie L, Hamburg, Germany
1994 Ceramic Art Gallery, Paddington, Sydney, NSW, January
Distelfink Gallery, Armadale, Melbourne, VIC
1998 Perth Galleries, Subiaco, WA
Distelfink Gallery, Armadale, Melbourne, VIC
1999 Fusions Gallery, Brisbane QLD
2000 Object Galleries, Customs House, Sydney, NSW
2001 Beaver Galleries, Canberra, ACT
2003 Perth Galleries, Subiaco WA
2004 Masterworks, Auckland New Zealand
2005 Skepsi Gallery, Melbourne Victoria

Group Exhibitions

Have participated in over 200 invitational and juried exhibitions in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Switzerland, Singapore, Germany, United Kingdom and USA

Awards

1988 The Fletcher Challenge Award, NZ
Professional Development Fellowship - Australia Council
1996-97 Professional Development Grants - Australia Council and ArtsWA
2000 "19th National Craft Acquisition Award" - Museum & Art Gallery of Northern Territory
2002 Co recipient with Anne Farren of Australia Council-New Work Grant, ArtsWA-Arts and Culture Export Program, International Foundation for Arts and Culture and Art on the Move touring exhibition funding.

Public Collections

Represented in over 46 major collections including: Art Gallery of WA; National Gallery of Victoria; High Court of Australia, Canberra; Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney; National Gallery of Australia; Art Gallery of South Australia; Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Tasmania; Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory; Queensland Art Gallery; Auckland Institute and Museum; Gifhu Prefecture Ceramic Museum, Japan; Toki Ceramic Research Institute, Japan; Australian Embassy, Tokyo, Japan.