



JILL SYMES

“In my studio practice I have been developing a ceramic language enabling me to express in a direct and intuitive way my feelings toward inner landscapes and the regular experiences of connecting with the natural world. I create three dimensional landscapes with slabs of clay, allowing the qualities in the clay to affect the sculptural forms. There is a suggestion of remnants of vessel, which is symbolic of my history of vessel making – the container as symbol of life.

Once the slab is formed it is allowed to dry. The firmed clay slab becomes a “canvas” onto which I paint with layers of clay slips. The glazing and firing process adds depth to the finished surface by revealing the layers of colour and the brushmarks which show the immediacy of the painting process, thus bringing the piece to life.”

JILL SYMES was born and educated in Melbourne. Working as a studio potter, she has been exhibiting in solo and group shows since 1982. Her works are in public and private collections around Australia and overseas.

QUALIFICATIONS

- 1982-Present Professional Studio Practice
1991-1992 Graduate Diploma in Fine Art (Ceramics), Monash University
1988 TAFE Tutor Training Course
CAE Tutor Training Course

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 (forthcoming) Japan Cultural Centre through the Japanese Consulate Melbourne
2010 Kazari Collector, Melbourne - Fragments of Landscape
2006 Kazari Collector, Melbourne - Fructuous
2005 Without Pier Gallery, Sandringham - Origins
2004 Skepsi on Swanston, Melbourne – Aqua Fresca
2002 Haecceity Arts, Melbourne – Jill Symes - A Survey, 1989-2002
1998 Centre for Contemporary Craft, Object Stores, Sydney - Landscape Vessels
1996 Quadrivium, Sydney - Transitions in Clay
1994 Grand Central, Melbourne - Mask, Doll, Vessel, Goddess, Self-Portrait
1992 183 Collins Street, Melbourne
1991 185 Collins Street, Melbourne
1990 Meat Market Craft Centre, VCG - Potter of the Month (Retrospective)
1989 Etherlings, Malmsbury, Vic. - Saggar-fired Ceramics
1988 Distelfink, Melbourne - Saggar-fired Ceramics
1987 Northcote Pottery Gallery - Terracotta for the Cottage Table
1983 Elgin Galleries, Carlton – Blackware & Raku

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS (Selected)

- 2006 Delhi Blue Pottery Trust, India - Impressed, Contemporary Australian Ceramics
2004, 2001, 2000, 1999, 98, 97 Gold Coast International Ceramic Awards
1995, 1996 Grand Central, Melbourne - The Matchbox Show
1995 Artefact, Melbourne @ Victoria House, London
1995 Artefact, Melbourne @ Quo Quo Hotel, Hong Kong
1994 Australian Contemporary Art Fair (ACAF4), Melbourne
1992 Meat Market Craft Centre - Jennings International Ceramic Awards
1990 New Zealand - Fletcher Challenge Awards (Certificate of Merit)

SELECTED INVITATIONAL GROUP SHOWS

- 2010 Toorak Village Festival of Sculpture
2008 Toorak Village Festival of Sculpture (winner – Rotary Award)
2007 Toyota, Melbourne, Indoor/Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition 2007
2006 Kazari Collector, Melbourne Alchemy in Clay
2006 Toorak Village Sculpture Festival, Melbourne
2005 Framed the Darwin Gallery, Darwin, N.T. Chequers
2005 Toorak Village Sculpture Festival, Melbourne
2005 Catherine & Neil Tait gallery, Castlemaine
2003 Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney – The Rye Crop
2003 Skepsi on Swanston, Melbourne, Showing Off... Again
2003 Kazari, Melbourne
2002 Montsalvat, Eltham - Clay@Montsalvat
2002 45Downstairs, Melbourne – Jazzart
2002 Skepsi, Melbourne - Showing Off - Masterworks in Clay
2000 Kazari, Melbourne
2000 Dagmar Art - Response to Landscape

SELECTED INVITATIONAL GROUP SHOWS (CONT'D)

- 1999 Kazari - Zen, Buddha, Sticks & Stones....
- 1999 Kidogo Arthouse, Fremantle W.A. - Edge to Edge
- 1998 Qdos, Lorne (Vic.) - two-person show
- 1998 BDAS Gallery, Bowral, NSW - Achromatic
- 1997 Kazari, Melbourne
- 1996 Meat Market Craft Centre - Limited Editions
- 1996 Contemporary Artspace, Sydney - Souvenir of Sydney
- 1997 Kazari/Artefact, Melbourne
- 1995 Gryphon Gallery, Melbourne
- 1994 Meat Market Craft Centre - Then & Now
- 1994 Ether Ohnetitel, Melbourne with CraftVic - New York Craft Collectors' Circle
- 1993 Caulfield Arts Complex - Form, Figure, Fragment
- 1993 Meat Market Craft Centre - Pasqua
- 1992 National Gallery of Victoria - The Art of Making Do
- 1992 Meat Market Craft Centre - The Bowl
- 1991 The Women's Gallery, Melbourne – International Women's Day Exhibition
- 1989 Beaver Galleries, Canberra - Four Ceramists
- 1989 Gallery Handmade, Prahran (two-person show)
- 1988 Meat Market Craft Centre - Extremities
- 1987 The Maker's Gallery, Sandringham - Imagemakers
- 1986 Ballarat City Fine Art Gallery - Ceramics Expo
- 1986 Gallery Handmade, Prahran (two-person show)
- 1986 The Maker's Gallery - Mardi Gras of Ceramics (two-person show)
- 1985 The Maker's Gallery, Sandringham - Women's Work
- 1984 Blackwood Street Gallery, Meat Market Craft Centre - Clay x 2 (two-person show)

NATIONAL AWARD EXHIBITIONS (Selected)

- 2007, 2005, 2003 LaTrobe University Ceramic Awards @ Castlemaine State Festival
- 2001 Parliament House, Canberra
- 2002 (annually since 1983) Alice Craft Acquisition ,MAGNT, Alice Springs, N.T.
- 2001, 1997, 1994 Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville Qld
- 1997, 95 National Craft Award, MAGNT Darwin
- 1996, 95, 94, 93, 92, 91, 90 Gold Coast National Ceramic Award
- 1995 Nillumbik Art Award
- 1990 National Ceramic Award, Canberra

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1997 Commissioned by Crown Towers Hotel, Melbourne to produce 260 objects d'art; one-off works and production pieces
- 1995 Formed SyCo Ceramics to design and produce limited edition handmade tableware for niche markets in Australia and overseas;
- 1994 ACAF4 (Australian Contemporary Art Fair) - exhibitor with Craftvic;
- 1992 National Gallery of Victoria - exhibitor in The Art of Making Do;
- 1991 Artist-in-residence with a team of four at Sandybeach Community Arts Centre, commissioned to create The Wall - 20 x 4 metre permanent installation in five panels.
- 1991-1997 Tutor in ceramics with Council of Adult Education
- 1985-1987 Benalla Ceramic Mural Garden - worked with architect and ceramic artist, Judy Lorraine, assisting in design and creation of parts of this large architectural project in terracotta;
- From 1982 Tutoring, lecturing, demonstrating for potters' workshops and artist-in-the-community projects;
- From 1972 Developed and taught handbuilding and sculptural techniques, functional tableware, kiln-building, and various primitive low-temperature firing methods (e.g. raku, saggar, pit, sawdust and blackfiring).

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

IOOF Melbourne; Crown Towers Hotel, Melbourne; Artbank; The Kyneton Collection; Victorian Ceramic Group; Museums & Art Galleries of NT (MAGNT) Darwin; MAGNT Alice Springs; Townsville Pacific Festival Qld.(x2); Bundaberg Art Festival Qld.; Diamond Valley City Council (City of Nillumbik); Box Hill City Council (City of Whitehorse), Footscray City Council (Maribyrnong City Council); Sandringham City Council (City of Bayside) (x2); Mildara Wines; St. George Bank; Wesley College; St. Leonards College

MAJOR COMMISSIONS

2000 *Southern Family Life, Melbourne*
1999 *The Pinnacle Apartments, Sydney*
1998 *Penguin Books*
1997 *Crown Towers Hotel, Melbourne (260 objects d'art)*
1995 *Peridot Theatre Company, Melbourne*
1995 *Waverley Festival of Theatre*
1989-1995 *Waverley Festival of Theatre, Annual Commission*
1991 *Sandybeach Community Arts Centre, "The Wall" mixed media 20 x 4 metres.*

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- *Pottery in Australia, November 2002, Pp 12-15 – From the Hand, Head & Heart*
- *The Age, Melbourne, Domain Magazine, 5 December 2001, P.13 – A Woman's Touch*
- *Melbourne Herald-Sun, New Home Magazine, No.211, April 4-10 1998, Pp20-21, Feat of Clay*
- *Who's Who of Australian Visual Artists, 1995*
- *Pottery in Australia, Vol.4 No.1 1995 The Vessel as Doll, Goddess, Free Spirit*
- *Victorian Ceramic Group Newsletter, Sept. 1995, Jill Symes, Fridge Kiln*
- *Australian Contemporary Art Fair 1994 (ACAF4) Catalogue*
- *Melbourne Age, 21 June 1994, Review Jenny Zimmer*
- *Craft Arts International, No.30 1994, Form, Figure, Fragment*
- *Art in City Windows, City of Melbourne catalogue, 1991*
- *Melbourne Age, 13 December, 1991*
- *Craft Arts International, No.21, 1991,*
- *Craft Arts International, No.20, 1990,*
- *Fletcher Challenge Awards Catalogue 1990*
- *Craft Victoria, August 1990*
- *Canberra Times, 20 May 1989, Four Different Results from the Same Material*
- *Melbourne Age, 13 June 1989, Gold is Steaming Across Bass Strait review by Mary Lou Jelbart*
- *Craft Victoria June 1989, Front Cover and P.4*
- *Victorian Ceramic Group Calendar 1989*
- *Craft Victoria 1-2/89*
- *Craft Victoria 3/89*
- *Craft Arts International August 1989, Mornington Peninsula Craft Award*
- *Pottery in Australia May 1989*
- *Proceedings - Fifth National Ceramic Conference, Sydney, 1988, Handbuilt Earthenware*
- *Craft Arts International, No.14, 1988, Saggar Firing*
- *Northcote Pottery Equipment Catalogue, 1988 - Front Cover*
- *Pottery in Australia, August 1988*
- *Box Hill City Council 1987, Recent Acquisitions Catalogue*
- *Melbourne Times, 20 April 1983, Review by Janina Green*
- *Melbourne Age, 20 December 1981, Review*