

MATTHEW CURTIS

Matthew Curtis' work continues to explore a dialogue between texture, shape and colour. His glass forms are blown as a three colour overlay and when cooled, the opaque skin of the object is mapped out, marked, and then incised. In his most recent work, Matthew explains that he is "exploring the line itself as a mark." In some pieces the lines are varied and in others they are expressed repetitively with meditative precision, in an effort to explore the ephemeral nature of human endeavour. In some cases line echoes form, while in other works, the lines abstractly reference natural landscapes. The physical act of marking and cutting opens the interior of the vessel, allowing the inner transparency to be experienced through shifting light, at times quiet and still, at other times, bursting with vibrancy and energy.

Matthew Curtis began his career in glass blowing under the expert teaching of glass artist Robert Wynne in the early 1990s. In between building a hot glass studio for Robert and assisting with the glassblowing there, Matthew worked on his own projects. Working alongside skilled practitioners was a great influence for Matthew and he "readily acknowledges the importance of the development of his work provided by his fellow collective members: Ben Edols, Kathy Elliot, Bettina Visentin and Richard Whiteley". In 1996, Matthew was selected as a finalist for the prestigious RFC Glass Prize as well as being awarded the People's Choice Prize. In 2002, Matthew was recognised for his significant contribution to contemporary craft by being included in the exhibition 'Material Culture' curated by Robert Bell for the National Gallery of Australia. Additionally, he was the only glass artist selected as one of twenty-one artists for the National Sculpture Prize and Exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia in 2003.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1964 Born Luton, England
- 1991-98 Assistant to Robert Wynne, production work and studio construction, Denizen Glass Studio, Sydney
- 1998 Assisted Dale Chihuly at Sydney Festival event demonstration, Sydney College of the Arts
Hot glass tutor, Sydney College of the Arts
Technical Assistant for Ben Edols and Kathy Elliott, Coming Studios, NY, USA
- 1999 Wheaton Village Fellowship and demonstration, Milleville, NJ, USA
- 2000 Hot glass tutor, Sydney College of the Arts
- 2001 Hot glass tutor, Creative Glass Center, Switzerland
- 2003 Hot glass tutor, Verterria Artigiana, Switzerland
- 2004 Hot glass tutor, Verterria Artigiana, Switzerland
- 2004-05 Construction and operation of Hot Studio, Queanbeyan, NSW
- 2006 Artists address, Collect at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2008 "Dividing lines", Pismo Gallery, Aspen, Colorado, USA
"Matthew Curtis", Riley Gallery, Cleveland, USA
- 2005 Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
- 2004 Sanske Gallery, Zürich
- 2003 "Surveying the surface", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Tactile", Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
"Grid Lines", Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
- 2001 Sanske Gallery (in collaboration with Creative Glass), Zürich, Switzerland

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 "Sum of Parts", Masters Exhibition, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
Australian Survey exhibition, Imago Gallery, Palm Desert, USA
- 2009 "Symmetry in Nature", Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
"Collect", Satchi Gallery, London, UK
Palm Beach 3, Thomas R Riley Gallery, USA
SOFA Santa Fe (Thomas R Riley Gallery, USA)
- 2008 "Collect V& A England co.", Raglan Gallery, Sydney
"Palm Beach 3", Thomas R Riley Gallery, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
"Dialogue", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2007 "Structural divisions", Axia Modern Art, Melbourne, Vic
SOFA, Chicago, USA

- 2006 "Collect V& A England co.", Raglan Gallery, Sydney
SOFA, Chicago, USA
"Australian glass", Sandra Ainsley Gallery, Toronto, Canada
"Australische impressionen", Gallery Rosenhauer, Goettingen, Germany
- 2005 "Canberra Glass 2005", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Collect V& A England co.", Raglan Gallery, Sydney
"Glass survey exhibition", Sanske Gallery, Switzerland
- 2004 "Something Different", Glass Pyramid Gallery, Budapest, Hungary
Canberra Glass 2004, Beaver Galleries, Canberra
SOFA Chicago, USA
- 2003 National Sculpture Prize and Exhibition, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
"Australian Glass", Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
- 2002 "Material Culture" National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
"Transparent Things" National Gallery of Australia Travelling Exhibition, in collaboration with Wagga Wagga
Regional Art Gallery and The Thomas Foundation
- 2001 "Symmetry x 2", Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
- 2000 "Australia's Finest", Quadrivium, Sydney
RFC Glass prize touring exhibition
- 1999 "Metallica", Glass Artists' Gallery, Sydney
RFC Glass prize touring exhibition
SOFA Chicago, USA (Glass Artists' Gallery)
"Perspectives in Glass", Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
"Weekend 99", Wheaton Village, Milleville, NJ, USA
- 1998 "Past Tense/Future Perfect" National Tour, Craft West, Perth
"Translucence", Quadrivium, Sydney
SOFA Chicago, USA (Glass Artists' Gallery)
- 1997 "Australian Glass", Art forum, Singapore
RFC Glass prize touring exhibition
"Explorations in Glass", solo show, Glass Artists' Gallery, Sydney
- 1996 RFC Glass prize touring exhibition
- 1995 "Year of the Pig", Tatjana, Sydney
- 1994 "Just One of a Kind", Glass Artists' Gallery, Sydney

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2010 Arts ACT New Work Grant
- 2006 Australia Council Grant
- 2004 Australia Council Grant
- 2002 Australia Council Grant
- 2000 RFC Glass Prize Finalist
- 1999 Thomas Foundation Grant
Fellowship, Creative Glass Center of America, New Jersey, USA
RFC Glass Prize Finalist
- 1997 RFC Glass Prize Finalist
- 1996 RFC Glass Prize Finalist
RFC Glass Prize Peoples Choice Winner

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Art Trust Australia, Melbourne; Wagga Wagga National Glass Collection, NSW; Embassy of Norway, Canberra; Ernsting Stifting Glass Museum, Coesfeld, Germany; Societe General, Singapore; De Young Museum Collection, San Francisco, USA; Mobile City Art Glass Museum Collection, USA; Palm Springs Museum, CA, USA