

MEL DOUGLAS

Mel Douglas' engraved glass vessels and wall panels are beautifully resolved examples of simplicity, exhibiting a distinct clarity and balance between surface and form. The work suggests a controlled stillness and silence, a meditation on the elements of light, space and time. Mel's recent work draws inspiration from the changes that occur within the landscape with the fading light, the quiet shadows that appear at the last light of day, or the shimmer of dappled light across a body of water. The creation of her work is integral to the reading of each piece, the slow process of construction evident in the finished object. "I aim to concentrate the viewer's attention on the proportion and linear relationships of the work. Each line is a unique mark influenced by the object's physical shape and surface; it is a contour, a stroke, an outline. The repetitious and time-consuming method of mark making is not only a meditative process ... it describes a singular moment and a certain place." By contrast, Mel sees the vessel structure that dominates her work as a type of vortex of time and light, invoking notions of providing and consuming.

Mel Douglas has gained a significant reputation in Australia and internationally since graduating with 1st class honours from the ANU Institute of the Arts in 2000, and upon receiving a Thomas Foundation Pilchuck Student Scholarship to study in the USA. In 2002, Mel won the prestigious Ranamok Glass Prize and, in 2007, the LinoTagliapietra Prize of Young Glass at the Glasmuseet Ebeltoft in Denmark. Her work has been exhibited widely in Australia and overseas, and is in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia, Parliament House, National Art Glass Collection at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Corning Museum of Glass (USA), and Cincinnati Art Museum (USA).

BIOGRAPHY

- 1978 Born Burnie, Tas
- 1999 Installation team member for Dale Chihuly exhibition, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
"Micro-Macro Approach to Sculpture" workshop with Harumi Yukutake, Pilchuck Glass School, Pilchuck, Seattle, USA
- 2000 Bachelor of Arts (Visual) with Honours, Canberra School of Art, National Institute of the Arts, ANU, Canberra
- 2001-07 Project Officer, Travelling Exhibitions, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2002 Residency, Bullseye Glass Company, Portland, USA
Graduate in Residence, National Institute for the Arts, ANU, Canberra
- 2003 Graduate in Residence, National Institute for the Arts, ANU, Canberra
Emerging Artist presenter, GAS Conference, Seattle, USA
"The Graven Image" workshop with Jiri Harcuba, Pilchuck Glass School, Pilchuck, Seattle, USA
- 2007 "Kiln working techniques" workshop with Kirstie Rea, Canberra School of Art, ANU
- 2008 "Kiln forming and more" workshop with Mel George and Jeremy Lepisto, Canberra Glassworks
- 2009 "Relief printing" workshop with Julian Laffen, Megalo Print Studio, Canberra
Complementary Studies lecturer, Glass Workshop, Canberra School of Art, ANU
- 2010 Residency, Northlands Creative Glass, Lybster, Scotland

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 "Half-light", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2010 "Eventide", Bullseye Gallery, Portland, USA
- 2008 "Between the lines", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2007 "Linearity", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2006 "Dense light", Narek Galleries, Tanja, NSW
- 2005 "Mel Douglas", Habatat Galleries, Chicago, USA
- 2002 "Mel Douglas - Recent Works", Link Gallery, Canberra Centre

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 SOFA Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks and touring nationally
Art Santa Fe, USA (Bullseye Gallery)
"Geometry", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 Art Miami, USA (Bullseye Gallery)
"Mind and Matter", Object Gallery, Sydney
'Contemporary Glass Artists', Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 2009 "Miniatures in Glass", Bilk Workshop, Queanbeyan, NSW

- "ARTWORK", School of Art Gallery, ANU
Art Santa Fe, USA (Bullseye Gallery)
Art Miami, USA (Bullseye Gallery)
- 2008 SOFA Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
"Masterworks in glass", Narek Galleries, Tanja, NSW
"In essence, the legacy of Stephen Proctor", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2007 "Heart land", Canberra Glassworks
SOFA Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
- 2006 "Australian Glass 2006", Sandra Ainsley Gallery, Toronto, Canada
"Winter harvest", Kamberra Wines, Canberra
Collect, V & A Museum, London, UK (Narek Galleries)
SOFA Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
- 2005 "Seeds of light", ANU School of Art Gallery, Canberra
"Canberra Glass 2005", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Viewed through glass", Heller Gallery, New York, USA
"The Cutting Edge", cut & engraved glass, curated by Robert Bell, Wagga Wagga Regional Art Gallery, NSW
"Geometry, rhythm and light", Craft ACT, Canberra; Gaffer Gallery, Hong Kong
"Collectors Choice", Axia Modern Art, Sydney
"New Directions in Australian Glass", Australian Embassy, Washington, USA
- 2004 "A moment", Goulburn Art Gallery, NSW
Collect, V & A Museum, London, UK (Narek Galleries)
"Recent works", Craft ACT Crucible, Canberra
"Four:04", Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
SOFA Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
"Geometry, rhythm and light", Object Galleries, Sydney
- 2003 SOFA Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
Ranamok Glass Prize, touring exhibition
"Selected work from the permanent collection", Canberra Museum and Gallery
"Hobart City art prize", Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery
- 2002 "Liquidity", Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
"Graduates", Kamberra Wine Centre, Canberra
"Black, white and grey matter", Craft ACT, Canberra
"Terra Incognita", Bullseye Connection Gallery, Portland, USA
"Dialogue", Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
Ranamok Glass Prize, touring exhibition
"Canberra Glass 2002", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Recent graduates", National Institute of the Arts, Australian National University, Canberra
"Recent works", Link Gallery, Canberra Theatre Centre
- 2001 "Resonance within", Chappell Gallery, New York, USA
"Unchartered waters", Ausglass student exhibition, Monash University, Melbourne
"Canberra meets Venice", Scaletta di Vetro Galleria, Milan, Italy
"Ranamok Glass Prize 2001", Volvo Gallery, Sydney, touring exhibition
"Canberra Glass 2001", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"New Talent", Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
SOFA New York, (Chappell Gallery)
- 2000 "Sassy Students", Glass Artists Gallery, Sydney
"Essentially Canberra", Earl Lu Gallery, LaSalle SIA College of the Arts, Singapore
"First thoughts", Canberra School of Art Drawing Prize
"RFC Glass Prize 2000", Volvo Gallery, Sydney, touring exhibition
"Canberra Glass 2000", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"2000 ANU Canberra School of Art Graduating Student Exhibition"
- 1999 "Ausglass Student Exhibition", Wagga Wagga Regional Art Gallery, NSW
"Essentially Canberra", Chappell Gallery, Boston, USA
SOFA New York, (Chappell Gallery)

- "Essentially Canberra", Objects Galleries, Customs House, Sydney
"New Directions, Emerging Glass Artists in Australia", Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
1998 "Canberra goes to Venice", Straithnairn Gallery, Canberra
"Venezia Aperto Vetro '98", International New Glass, Venice, Italy
1996 "Sight and sound", Foundation exhibition, Canberra School of Art, Foyer Gallery, Canberra

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2011 People's choice award, Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra
Finalist, Tom Malone Prize
2007 Winner, LinoTagliapietra Prize, Young Glass 2007, Glasmuseet Ebeltoft, Denmark
2006 Australia Council new work grant
2002 Winner, Ranamok Glass Prize, Sydney
Arts ACT quick response grant
Arts ACT grant
Pilchuck scholarship
2000 Emerging Artists Support Scheme Acquisition Award
Art Monthly Award
1999 The Thomas Foundation, Pilchuck Student Scholarship
1998 Chapel Windows, Canberra Hospital, Canberra

PUBLICATIONS

- 2011 "Looking at the landscape", Arne Sjostedt, *Canberra Times*, 18 May
2010 "3 Questions for Mel Douglas", *Glass Quarterly*, October
2008 "Mel Douglas - between the lines - studio glass", Sarah Vandeppeer, *Craft Arts International*, No. 73
"Glass acts continue", Diane Streak, *Capital Life*, 29 January
"Canberra stars of glass", Diane Streak, *Capital Life*, 2 February
"This study in glass is good - not great", Meredith Hinchliffe, *Canberra Times*, 7 February
2007 "The Third Ebeltoft Young Glass Prize", Dan Klein, *Neues Glas/New Glass*, 2/07
2006 "Shining with quiet beauty", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 28 May
New Glass Review - Juror Choice
Artichoke, No. 5
2005 *New Glass Review* No. 26
Australian Glass Today, Margot Osborne, Wakefield Press
2003 *New Glass Review* No. 24
"Between the Lines", Belinda Cotton, *Craft Arts International*, No. 59
"The limitless possibilities of glass", *Muse*, June
Ranamok Glass Prize review, Ann McMahon, *Canberra Times*, 10 June
"A feeling for the art of glass", *Capital*, Sept-Oct
"The Ranamok Glass Prize, 2002", Graziella Folchini Grassetto, *Craft Arts International*, No. 58
2002 "The Ranamok Glass Prize, 2001", Louise Doyle, *Craft Arts International*, No. 54
"New Glass - New Talent", Meredith Hinchliffe, *Craft Arts International*, No. 54
2001 *New Glass Review* No. 22
"The RFC Glass Prize, 2000", Glenn Cooke, *Craft Arts International*, No. 51
1999 "New Directions", Anna Grigson, *Craft Arts International*, No. 47

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Parliament House, Canberra; Australian National University, Canberra; Wagga Wagga Art Gallery (National Art Glass Collection), NSW; Canberra Museum and Gallery; ACT Legislative Assembly, Canberra; Ranamok Glass Collection, Sydney; National Convention Centre, Canberra; KPMG, Canberra; Corning Museum of Glass, NY, USA; Cincinnati Art Museum, USA.