

## FIONA HISCOCK

*Fiona Hiscock views the traditions of utilitarian ceramic vessels within a broader concept of functionalism, relating her forms to pieces that were used in daily domestic rituals of the past. Her vessels, loosely based on early colonial domestic objects such as water pitchers, basins and mixing bowls, are built by hand using the 'coiling' technique. They are overscaled and robust, reminding us of vessels designed to provide years of faithful service. The finished works are adorned with details of introduced plant species such as figs, plums, lilies, poppies, briar roses, blackberries and pomegranates. Her current working method involves preparing watercolours on paper of the plants that interest her. The plants are carefully selected both for their symbolic as well as aesthetic value. Fiona then transfers the image, or parts of the image onto the pots by drawing directly onto the bone dry, unfired surface using a lead pencil. Of this process, Fiona says that "careful decisions need to be made as to how the shape of the plant will relate to the shape of the pot, and much effort goes into achieving a sense of balance within the work." Ceramic stains and coloured oxides are then applied in much the same way that watercolours are used, building up layers of soft colour wash. Once the painting is complete, the work is bisque fired and then glaze fired.*

*Born in Melbourne in 1965, Fiona Hiscock completed her training at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in the early 1990s. She has been exhibiting consistently since 1991 and her work is represented in the Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra, as well as the collections of the Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne, Queensland University of Technology, Deakin University, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Victoria, the Gold Coast Regional Art Gallery, Qld, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW and the Shepparton Regional Art Gallery, Victoria.*

### BIOGRAPHY

- 1965 Born in Melbourne
- 1984 - 86 BA Fine Art (History), Melbourne University
- 1987 - 91 BA Fine Art (Ceramics), RMIT, Melbourne
- 1992 - 93 Honours Degree (ceramics) RMIT, Melbourne
- 1999 Vice President, Board of Craft Victoria
- 2000 Lecturer (Ceramics), Box Hill Institute of Tafe, Melbourne
- 2002 President, Board of Craft Victoria
- 2008 Vice President, Board of Craft Victoria

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 "weeds", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2006 "Fruition", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2003 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- "Recent ceramics", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2000 "Unfurl", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- "A new green leaf", Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 1998 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 1997 "Timelines", Craft Victoria, Melbourne

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2007 "New Under the Sun", Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne
- 2005 Hobart Art Prize
- "Chilli", Cudgegong Gallery, Gulgong, NSW
- 2004 "Celebrating the Master", Schepsi Gallery, Melbourne
- 2003 Mt Buller Art Award, Vic
- "Changing Surfaces", Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
- 2002 Centenary Craft Prize, Parliament House, Canberra
- Alice Springs Craft Acquisition Award, NT
- 2001 Inaugural exhibition, Freeman 3 Gallery, Hobart
- 1999 "Drawn in Form", travelling show to Brisbane City Gallery and Object Gallery, NSW
- Alice Springs Craft Acquisition Award, NT
- "Blessed be the Work: Jewish Ritual and Contemporary Craft", Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne
- 1998 Mornington Peninsula Craft Event, Mornington Arts Centre, Vic

- 1997 Gold Coast Ceramic Art Award, Gold Coast Art Centre, Qld  
Faenza International Ceramic Art Competition, Italy  
Moonee Valley Festival Contemporary Craft Exhibition, The Incinerator Arts Complex, Melbourne  
"New Visions" (5 Artists), Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Vic  
Sidney Myer Fund Australia Day Invitation Ceramic Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
- 1996 Gold Coast Ceramic Art Award, Gold Coast Art Centre, Qld  
Sidney Myer Fund Australia Day Invitation Ceramic Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
- 1995 Mornington Peninsula Craft Event, Mornington Arts Centre, Vic  
Gold Coast Ceramic Art Award, Gold Coast Art Centre, Qld
- 1994 American Craft Collectors Weekend, Either Onatitle Gallery, Vic  
Mornington Peninsula Craft Event, Mornington Arts Centre, Vic
- 1993 "RMIT Honours Ceramics Students", Old Customs House, Melbourne  
"Fresh" Victorian Student Award Exhibition, Craft Victoria, Melbourne
- 1992 Soroptimist Society Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
- 1991 "RMIT Ceramics", Blaxland Gallery, Melbourne

#### AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2002-03 Residency at Haefligers Cottage, Hill End, NSW
- 2002 Alice Springs Craft Award, NT
- 1999 Australia Council grant to travel to Millennium Ceramics conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1997 Moonee Valley Festival Contemporary Craft Award, Vic
- 1996 Gold Coast Ceramic Art Merit Award (Acquired), Gold Coast Art Centre, Qld
- 1991 Walker Ceramics Prize for Excellence, RMIT, Melbourne  
National Gallery Society of Victoria Award, RMIT, Melbourne

#### PUBLICATIONS

- 2006 "The Canberra Review", *City News*, 16 February  
"Joy on familiar path", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *The Canberra Times*, 2 March
- 2003 "Botanical Beauties", Karen Hood, *Herald Sun*, 21st June  
"Central west ceramic focus", Alex Torrens, *Pottery In Australia*, Autumn 2003  
"Capturing the promise of summer", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *The Canberra Times*, August 26
- 2000 "A new viewpoint", Meredith Hinchliffe, *The Canberra Times*, May 20
- 1999 "Ceramics from the Heart to the Table", Joseph Pascoe, *Pottery in Australia*
- 1998 "Size with Attitude", Zinta Jurjuans Heard, *The Age*, 10 May  
"Artists in Residence", Denise Ryan, *The Age*, 29 July  
"Objects of Desire", Jo Litson, *The Australian Weekend Review*, 20 June  
"Fruits of an Urban Shed", Simon Plant, *Herald Sun Newspaper*, 3 October
- 1997 "Functional, Inviting and a Few Surprises", Jenny Zimmer, *The Age*, 28 May  
"New Handle on Old Aesthetics Problem", Anna Long, *Business Review Weekly*, 12 May  
"Reward still rich on new path", Meredith Hinchliffe, *The Canberra Times*, 23 May  
"The Vases that Fiona Built", Claire Sutherland, *Herald Sun Newspaper*, 10 May  
*Masters of their Craft*, Noris Ioannou, Craftsman House, Sydney  
"Fiona Hiscock's Timelines", Chris Sanders, *Ceramics: Art and Perception*, No.30
- 1996 "Ceramic Awards Show the Shape of Talent", Jenny Zimmer, *The Age*, 1 February  
"6 Rising Stars", *House and Garden Magazine*, December
- 1994 "Boundary Crossings bode well for 1994", Jenny Zimmer, *The Age*, 4 January  
"Craft World Enters a New Era", Jenny Zimmer, *The Age*, 3 March
- 1993 "A crop of students", Peter Timms, *Ceramics, Art and Perception*, Issue 11, Sept  
"Craft Shows with Fresh Approach", Jenny Zimmer, *The Age*, 14 December

#### COLLECTIONS

Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra; Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne; Queensland University of Technology, Qld; Deakin University, Vic; Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic; Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Vic; Gold Coast Regional Art Gallery, Qld; Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW