

SONY MANNING

For thirty years Sony Manning has been a quietly influential figure in Australian studio ceramics and her delicate and unusual inlay work in porcelain has been much admired. Harnessing the scope for both the earthy and decorative effects offered by her medium, Sony uses a combination of inlaid slips, plastic clays and metallic oxide pigments which she layers to create pieces of exquisite detail. When these layers are cut during the production of her forms, the cross-section reveals the unexpected rhythm of the subterranean landscape with figurative elements. They infer the fissures, tangled roots, riverbeds and watermarks of the ancient area that Sony grew up on at the family dairy farm in north-east Victoria. Direct artistic influences came later via contact with the landscape paintings of Arthur Boyd. The grandiose spirit of the Australian high country, even after ravaged by bushfire, is expressed through Sony's intriguingly delicate porcelain vessels.

Sony Manning completed her diploma of Fine Art (Ceramics) at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 1978 and has exhibited widely across Australia ever since. In 2007, she was included in the National Gallery of Australia's major survey exhibition "The Crafted Object, 1960s - 1980s" and, prior to this, in an exhibition "Australian Art 1940-1990 from the collection of the National Gallery of Australia" which toured to Japan in 1995. Her work is in major collections including the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of South Australia, Art Gallery of Western Australia and the Powerhouse Museum. Internationally, her work has been collected by the Boise Art Museum, Idaho, USA and the Auckland Institute and Museum, New Zealand.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1949 Born Melbourne
1978 Graduated in Fine Art, Ceramics, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 Beaver Galleries, Canberra (with Sandra Black)
2007 "Watermark", Gallery 2, Craft Victoria, Melbourne
2001 Stephen McLaughlan Gallery, Melbourne
1998 "Inlaid ceramics: New Work", Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne
1997 Brighton Horizon Art Gallery, Vic
1991 "Inlaid Earthenware and Porcelain", Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne
1986 Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne
1985 "Inlaid Porcelain", The Potter's Gallery, Sydney
1984 Australian Galleries, Melbourne
1980 "The Secrets of the Hillside and the Songs of the Forest", The Craft Centre, South Yarra, Vic

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2007 "The Crafted Object, 1960s - 1980s", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
2004 "Celebrating the Master", Skepsi on Swanston, Melbourne
"The Victorian Connection", Ceramic Art Gallery, Sydney
2003 "Ceramics: The Australian and New Zealand Context", Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, Sydney
2002 "Susie McMeekin, Bill Burton, Sony Manning", Ceramic Art Gallery, Sydney
2001 "Australian Icons: from the VCG collection", La Trobe University, Bendigo, Vic
1999 "Contemporary Australian Craft", touring exhibition presented by the Powerhouse Museum and the Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Japan
"Edge to Edge: Ceramics from Australia and Canada", Perth Galleries
1995 "Australian Art 1940 - 1990 from the Collection of the National Gallery of Australia", Museum of Fine Arts, Gifu, Japan
1994 Colin & Cecily Rigg Award, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
1993 "Porcelain", Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1987 "Fire and Earth: Australian Contemporary Ceramics", Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney
1985 "Contemporary Australian Ceramics", touring to the USA, Canada, New Zealand and the Far East
1984 "Arthur Boyd and Sony Manning", Bonython-Meadmore Gallery, Adelaide
1983 Concorso Internazionale delle ceramica d'arte, Faenza, Italy
1982 "Survey of Victorian Ceramics", Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Vic
"Lawrence Daws and Sony Manning", Bonython Gallery, Adelaide



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1981 "Australian Contemporary Ceramics", tour of USA, Canada, NZ and the Far East
Concorso Internazionale delle ceramica d'arte, Faenza, Italy

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

2002 Award of Merit, Cowra Festival Art Awards, Cowra Regional Gallery, NSW
1997 Townsville Ceramics Acquisition, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville, Qld
1986 Acquired, Southern Cross TV8 Ceramic Acquisition Award, Vic
1984 Acquired, Darling Downs First National Acquisitive Ceramic Award, Qld
1982 Winner, Fourth Biennial Mayfair Ceramic Awards, NSW
1981 Winner, First Stirling Festival Art & Craft Awards, City of Stirling, SA
1979 Grant, Workshop Development, Crafts Board of the Australia Council

REPRESENTED

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; Victorian State Collection; Latrobe Regional Gallery, Vic; Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic; Benalla Art Gallery, Vic; Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum, Vic; City of Whitehorse Art Collection, Vic; Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Newcastle Region Art Gallery, NSW; Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville, Qld; Manly Art Gallery and Museum, NSW; Auckland Institute and Museum, NZ; Boise Art Museum, Idaho, USA.