

FIONA MURPHY

Inspired by nature, Fiona Murphy's "biomorphic" vessels express the structural, dramatic and metaphoric qualities of plants. Absent of any colour, Fiona's works utilise white (the combination of all colours in the spectrum) to accentuate form through light and shadow. While some vessels are angular and asymmetric, alluding to the phases of plant growth, others are round and curvaceous, evoking the organic forms of flowers. These expressive forms alluding to cycles and inter-relationships in nature are combined in sculptural vessels which also exemplify an understanding of clay and a respect for its natural textures and body. Simplicity and clarity of form are achieved by manipulating the inner and outer surfaces to create an undulating and rhythmic flow.

Having graduated in ceramics from Victoria College in 1980, Fiona went on to complete diplomas in Fine Art and Education. Since 1980, she has exhibited extensively in both group and solo exhibitions in Sydney, Melbourne and Europe including a 1991 exhibition "Halpern & Murphy", curated by the Shepparton Art Gallery which toured to the National Gallery of Victoria and Ballarat and Geelong Regional Galleries. She was selected for inclusion in the 1995 exhibition, "Delinquent Angel: Australian Historical, Aboriginal and Contemporary Ceramics", shown at the International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza, Italy and, in 1997, was chosen for the 50th International Ceramic Art Competition also in Faenza. Her works are included in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia, the Powerhouse Museum, the National Gallery of Victoria, and the State Galleries of South and Western Australia.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1980 Diploma of Art & Design (Major in Ceramics), Victoria College
- 1985 Graduate Diploma in Fine Art (Major in Ceramics), Philip Institute of Technology
- 1999-00 Board Member, Craft Australia
- 1993 Graduate Diploma in Education (Art Major), Melbourne Institute of Education
- 2007 Master of Fine Art, Monash University, Melbourne

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2008 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 2005 "0.6 degrees", Brian Moore Gallery, Sydney
- 2002 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 2000 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 1998 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 1996 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 1994 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 1992 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
Jam Factory, Adelaide
- 1991 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 1990 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1989 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1988 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1987 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1985 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1984 Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne
- 1982 Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne
- 1981 Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 Manningham Victorian Ceramic Art Award, Vic
- 2008 City of Hobart Art Prize
Sidney Myer International Ceramic Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
- 2007 "Alice at the Allport", State Library of Tasmania, Hobart
- 2006 Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition and Awards, Vic
- 2005 City of Hobart Art Prize, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
- 2004 Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition and Awards, Vic

- 2003 Hermann's Art Award Melbourne and Sydney
"Hypercrafting", Monash University Faculty Gallery, Melbourne
- 2001 SOFA, Chicago, USA
Contemporary Craft Prize, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT
"Foreign Soil: Ceramics from Australia, The Netherlands & Switzerland", Sybaris Gallery, Michigan, USA
"Australian Ceramics", Marianne Heller Gallery, Germany
- 2000-01 "Australian Crafts", International Frankfurt Craft Triennale, Geneva
- 2000 SOFA, Chicago, USA
- 1999 "Contemporary Australian Craft to Japan", Powerhouse Museum touring exhibition
- 1997 Sydney Myer Fund International Ceramics Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
"Australian Ceramics", Galerie Handwerk München and Kustgewerbemuseum Dresden, Germany
50th International Ceramic Art Competition, Faenza, Italy
- 1996 Sydney Myer Australia Day Ceramic Awards, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
- 1995-7 "Delinquent Angel; Australian Contemporary Ceramics", Museum of International Ceramics, Faenza, Italy; Itami Craft Centre, Osaka, Japan; Takashimaya Gallery, Singapore; and Public Galleries in Australia
- 1995 Sydney Myer Australia Day Ceramic Awards, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
- 1994 Colin and Cecily Rigg Craft Award, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Sydney Myer Australia Day Ceramic Awards, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
- 1993 "This Goes With That", Shepparton Gallery, Vic
"Vessel", Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
Sydney Myer Australia Day Ceramic Awards, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
- 1992 Sydney Myer Australia Day Ceramic Awards, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
"Chicago New Art Forms", Chicago USA
Fletcher Challenge Ceramic Award, New Zealand
- 1991 "Halpern & Murphy", Shepparton Art Gallery, toured to National Gallery of Victoria; Ballarat Regional Gallery; Geelong Public Gallery, Vic
Sydney Myer Australia Day Ceramic Awards, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
- 1990 New Zealand Commonwealth Games Art Exhibition, Auckland NZ
- 1988 "Australian Decorative Arts 1900-1985", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 1985 La Trobe University Gallery, Vic
Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Launceston, Tas

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2005 Acquisitive Award, City of Hobart Art Prize
- 2003 13 sculpted vessels, Crown Casino, Melbourne
- 2001 Grant, Visual Arts & Crafts Board, Australia Council
- 2000 Travel grant, Arts Victoria
- 1996 Grant for development of ceramic activities, Australia Council
Shepparton Australia Day - Myer Ceramic Award
- 1995 Bathurst Regional Gallery Art Award
Sculptures, Avila College, Melbourne
- 1994 Tiled entrance to building, Ruyton Girls' School, Vic
- 1993 Shepparton Australia Day - Myer Ceramic Award
- 1992 Diamond Valley Art Award
Ceramic Panels and Frieze for City of Hamilton Building
Shepparton Australia Day - Myer Ceramic Award
- 1991 Mosaic Walkway for Shepparton Art Gallery
- 1989 Grant for development of ceramic activities, Australia Council
- 1988 Bicentennial Women's Award, Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne
- 1987 Bathurst Regional Gallery Art Prize
- 1986 Crafts Board of The Australia Council - Grant to prepare for 1987 exhibition
- 1985 Benalla Mural Garden Seat Sculptures
- 1983 Crafts Board of the Australia Council Grant to travel in Europe to research ceramics
- 1980 Ceramic Award of Excellence, Victoria College, Prahran

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2008 *World Sculpture News*, Autumn
2007 *Ceramic Art & Perception*, No.69
2003 *Ceramic Art & Perception*, No.52
2000 *Suddeutsche Zeitung*, No. 15 (Germany)
Contemporary Australian Crafts, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
Sydney Morning Herald, 9 May
Craft From Scratch Triennale: Australia and Germany
Return of Beauty, Jam Factory, Adelaide
1999 *Ceramics: A Canadian Perspective*, Spring
Sidney Myer Fund Ceramic Award: A decade in review
1998 *Ceramic Art & Perception* No. 34
1996 *Craft Arts*, No. 36
1994 *Craft Victoria*, Spring
The Age, 16/8 and 15/11
National Gallery Society Magazine, August
1993 *Oz Arts*, Issue 5
American Ceramics Monthly, Feb
1990 *Art in Australia*, v27/4
Ceramics Art and Perception, 2
1988 *Craft Arts*, Sept/Nov
1987 *Pottery in Australia*, Dec
Craft Victoria, April
1985 *Pottery in Australia*, Dec
1984 *The Age - Arts*, 20 November
Craft Victoria, April
Pottery in Australia, Nov/Dec

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; Artbank; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane; Banyule Art Collection, Vic; Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Centre Gallery, Gold Coast, Qld; Diamond Valley Art Collection, Vic; Geelong Art Gallery, Vic; Hamilton Art Gallery, Vic; Manly Art Gallery, NSW; Rockhampton Art Gallery, Qld; Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic; Victorian State Craft Collection.