

AMANDA SHELSHER

Amanda Shelsher is a ceramic artist from Western Australia who creates semi-autobiographical sculptures that explore personal notions of growth, memory, desire and most recently, the instinctive and nurturing relationship between mother and child. Brimming with life, her figures are decorated with motifs from the natural world that affirm the miracle, energy and cycle of life. Daily observations of the growth of her children, their idealistic views and eagerness to learn are a constant source of inspiration. "My sculptural works in clay are simply a means of communicating my physical and mental journeys and are intensely personal voyages." Amanda's pieces are built by hand through a combination of slab and coil, using her own blend of earthenware and stoneware and paperware clay, porcelain, oxides, stains, slips and glazes. Often she uses the sgraffito technique, layering a thin layer of dark clay over a paler foundation and then using an incision tool to create surface patterns and drawings.

Graduating in visual arts (ceramics) from Curtin University of Technology in 1991, Amanda went on to complete a Graduate Diploma in Education the following year. She has been selected for many awards including the Sydney Myer Fund International Ceramics Award in 2002 and the Gold Coast International Ceramic Award in 2000, 2001, 2003, and 2005. Internationally, her work has been represented at prestigious events such as Collect (UK), Art Taipei (Taiwan) and SOFA Chicago (USA). Her work is represented in public and private collections across Australia and overseas, including the collection of the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1971 Born Fremantle, Western Australia
- 1992 Graduate Diploma of Education (Visual Arts), Curtin University of Technology, Perth
- 1989-91 Bachelor of Arts - Visual Arts (Ceramics), Curtin University of Technology, Perth
- 2002 Australia-Korea Foundation 10th Festival, Seoul, Korea (Craftwest, Perth)
- 2006 Gallery Assistant, Art Taipei, Hua Shan Culture Park, Taipei, Taiwan. Installed works for Fubon Banking corporation and gallery assistant for Raglan Gallery
- 2007 Scion Installation LA Space, "Australian Characters" group exhibition, Los Angeles, USA
Artist presentation: "Garden of Curiosities" FORM, Perth
- 2008 Panel member, "State of the West .Ceramic survey", Central TAFE Perth
Artist presentation, "State of the West" Ceramic survey", Central TAFE Perth
- 2009 Artist presentation, Stretch Festival, Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, Mandurah, WA
Workshop and Artist Presentation, Penrhos College, Perth
- 2010 Artist presentation, ceramic workshop, Australian National University, Canberra

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 "Earthy Perspectives", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2009 "Bloom", L K Galleries, Perth
Solo exhibition at Stretch Festival, Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, WA
"Wild Suburbia", Greenhill Galleries, Adelaide
- 2007 "Garden of Curiosities", FORM, Perth
- 2006 Fubon Art Foundation "18th Feast of the Mind, Buffet of Art", Taipei, Taiwan
- 2004 "Precious", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2002 Australia-Korea Foundation 10th Festival, Seoul, Korea (Craftwest)
- 1999 "Earthbound", The Moores Building, Fremantle, WA
- 1997 "3 Kombies, 24 Countries and 1Lion", Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, Perth

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 "Femme Folk and Fables", Linton and Kay Contemporary, Perth
Stanthorpe Art Award, Stanthorpe Regional Gallery, Stanthorpe, Qld
Perth College 25th Annual exhibition, Perth
"Down memory lane", Framed:The Darwin Gallery, NT
Ergon Energy CQ Ceramic Award, Rockhampton Art Gallery, Qld
- 2009 Summer Exhibition, Wagner Art Gallery, Sydney
Mazenod College Art Exhibition, Lesmurdie, WA
Hale Art Exhibition, Wembley Downs, WA
"Music Box Project" (curator Chrissie Parrot), Holmes a Court Gallery, Perth

- Prometheus Visual Arts Award, Merrimac, Qld
- 2008 "State of the West: Ceramic Survey", TAFE Gallery, Perth Central TAFE
Mino International Ceramic Award, Japan
Perth College 23rd annual exhibition, Perth
Minnawara Art Award, City of Armadale, WA
- 2007 "Australian Characters", Scion Installation Space (curator Stormie Mills) Los Angeles, USA
Hellfire Gallery, Esperance, WA
Alice Craft Acquisition, Alice Springs, NT
- 2006 Ananya Fine Arts, "Conversations in Clay", Hong Kong
Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe, WA
- 2005 Gold Coast International Ceramic Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld
"Statements in Sculpture", Skepsi Gallery, Melbourne
- 2003 "Remembering: Women Working for Women", Moores Building, Fremantle, WA
"Ceramics: The Australian and New Zealand Context", Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, NSW
"From the Fringe to the Centre", La Trobe University Art Collection. Mildura Arts Centre, Vic
Gold Coast International Ceramic Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld
- 2002 "Off The Wall and Grounded", La Trobe University Art Museum, Glenn College, Vic
Sidney Myer Fund International Ceramics Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
Alice Craft Acquisition, Alice Springs, NT
- 2001 "Storey's", Gallows Gallery, Perth
Gold Coast International Ceramic Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld
- 2000 "Cerebration", Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney
Gold Coast International Ceramic Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2009 ArtsWA Artflight grant (Adelaide)
- 2006 ArtsWA grant for "Sculpture by the Sea"
Sculpture Prize, City of Wanneroo Art Award, Perth
- 2005 Gold Coast International Ceramic Award, Acquisition, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld
- 2004 ArtsWA Artflight grant, Canberra
- 2001 Townsville Ceramic Competition, Clayworks Australia Award, (judge Michael Keighery), Qld
Port Hacking Potters Group 40th Award, Open, hand formed sculpture, (judge Mitsuo Shoji), Sydney
- 2000 Town of Vincent Art Award, Ceramic Commendation, WA
ArtsWA Artflight grant, Sydney
- 1999 Town of Vincent Art Award, WA
- 1998 Jah Roc Sculpture Prize, York Art Awards, WA
Victoria Park Sculpture Award, WA
- 1997 Jan Roc Sculpture Prize, York Art Awards, WA

PUBLICATIONS

- 2010 "Benign and quirky works", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *The Canberra Times*, August 25
- 2009 "Primordial Yearnings", Rachel Schulze, *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, Iss. 48, No. 1, pp48-51
"Bloom", Judith McGrath, Art seen in WA review, www.artseeninwa.com/shelsher
"Sculptor eyes child's eye view", Ara Jansen, *The West Australian*, April 23rd, p12
"Arts encore", Tim Lloyd, *The Advertiser*, p8
- 2008 "Amanda Shelsher's Friendly Forms", Judith McGrath, *Ceramic Art and Perception*, No. 71, pp25-28
- 2007 "Proust Pin-up", Arts Hub Australia, www.artshub.com.au/au/news 26 June
Ceramic Review Magazine, UK, Iss. Sept/Oct, p20
"Fine figure", Homes and Living Year Book 2007, p68
"Shining spirit of collaboration", Ric Spencer, *The West Australian*, 23 June
"Garden of curiosities", Judith McGrath, Art seen in WA review, www.artseeninwa.com/shelsher, July
Catalogue, SOFA Chicago 2007, USA
- 2006 "Home is where the heart is", A. Shelsher, *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, Vol. 45, No.3, pp22-23
"24th Gold Coast International Ceramics Award", Gordon Foulds, *Craft Arts International*, Iss. 66, p113

- Catalogue, Art Taipei, Taiwan pp124-125
Oh my deer, catalogue of 18th Feast of Mind - Buffet of Art, Fubon Arts Foundation, Taiwan pp11-12
Catalogue, "Sculpture by the Sea", WA
- 2005 "SOFA Chicago 2004 Exposition", Kevin Wallace, *Craft Arts International*, Iss. 64, pp 87
- 2004 "Capturing the Untouched", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, Aug 21
"Precious", Sue Buckle, *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, Vol 43, No. 3, pp6-9
Catalogue, SOFA Chicago 2004, p238
- 2003 "Ceramics in the Australian and New Zealand Context", Robert Reason, *Ceramics Art and Perception*, Iss. 52, p55
Object magazine, No. 41
- 2002 *Sidney Myer Fund International Ceramics Award Catalogue*, pp28, 40
National Focus, *Pottery in Australia* magazine, Vol. 41, No.1, March, Fleur Downs,
Craft Arts International, Iss. 55, July, pp54-57
"Gold Coast Ceramics Award", Rosemary Macfarlane, *Ceramics, Art and Perception*, Iss. 48, p63
- 2001 "Storeys" and "Earthbound"- review, Judith McGrath, *Art seen in Australia* (website), August
Gold Coast Ceramic Award, *Craft Arts International*, Issue no.51, p105
Perc Tucker Award, *Pottery in Australia* magazine, Vol. 39, No.3
- 2000 Artist profile/ sculpture feature, Donna Jerkins, *Home - Sunday Times*, 2 April
"Cerebration", *Pottery in Australia* magazine, September, Vol. 39, No. 3
- 1999 "Flights of Fancy Figures", R Banks, *Artbeat - The West Australian*, 20th February
Fremantle Arts Centre, *Craft Arts International*, Iss. 47
Artist Profile, *Pottery in Australia* magazine, June, Vol. 38, No.2
- 1997 Review of "Three Kombies, 24 Countries and 1 Lion", D Broomfield, *On show -The West Australian*, 4th October
- 1992 "Western Australia in focus", *Pottery in Australia* magazine, June, Vol. 31, p10

REPRESENTED

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; La Trobe University Art Collection, Melbourne; Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney; City of Perth Council Art Collection, WA; Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld; Rockhampton Art Gallery, Qld; Perth College Art Collection, WA; National Australia Bank, Melbourne; Healthway - West Australian Health Promotion Foundation, Perth; City of Wanneroo Art Collection, Perth; St John of God Hospital Art Collection, Murdoch, WA.