

NICK WIRDNAM

Nick Wirdnam is a highly regarded Australian glass artist whose work covers more traditional forms of glass as well as conceptual glass sculpture. Incorporating a language of recurring symbols and motifs, Nick sets up a dream-like and ambiguous narrative that allows room for open ended interpretation. Nick's latest body of work has been inspired by superstition and explores the idea that events can be influenced by an object, an act or a saying. The realistic glass forms adopt the surface texture and colour of the object they represent, which is particularly remarkable in the 'wooden' keys and wishbones. With a masterful distillation of all the sensuality inherent in glass, Nick creates beautiful coloured, hot sculpted objects that immediately attract and then confound, lyrical groupings that challenge in unexpected ways.

Born in Portsmouth, England, Nick Wirdnam became a foundation member of the studio team at Isle of Wight Glass in 1974, where he stayed for the next nine years, producing award winning decorative functional work and art objects. Moving to Australia in 1983, Nick took up a teaching position at Monash University, Melbourne, where he continued to lecture until 2007. In 1998, Nick was awarded the Pilchuck Scholarship to attend hot-sculpting classes with Italian master, Dino Rosin and, in 2002, he accepted a residency at Northlands Creative Glass Centre in Caithness, Scotland. Nick has had numerous solo and group exhibitions both in Australia and overseas, and is represented in major public collections including the National Gallery of Australia, Queensland Art Gallery, National Art Glass Collection at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery and the Glass Museum in Nijima, Japan.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1956 Born Portsmouth, England
- 1975-83 Founder member, Isle of Wight Studio Glass
- 1982 Operated One Man Studio, Jersey, Channel Islands
- 1988-89 President, Ausglass Victoria
Lecturer, Chisholm Institute of Technology, Melbourne
- 1989-2007 Coordinator and lecturer, Monash University, Melbourne
- 1990 Bachelor of Arts, Ceramic Design, Monash University, Melbourne, VIC
Visiting lecturer, Anderson University, Indiana
3 mth overseas study program - observations & participation in studios of Dale Chihuly, Ben Moore, Dante Marioni
- 1993-2007 Subject coordinator, glass studies, Monash University, Melbourne
- 1995-97 President, Ausglass Victoria
- 2002 Residency, Northlands, Scotland
- 2003 Lecturer, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington, USA
- 2006 Artist-in-residence, Glass Studio of Kurashiki University of Science and Art, Okayama, Japan
- 2009 Residency, Canberra Glassworks

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 "Plumb", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 "Superstition", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2008 "Portraits", Dane Gallery, Nantucket, USA
- 2007 "Portraits of life", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Portraits: past & present", William Traver Gallery, Seattle, Washington, USA
- 2006 "Portraits: past & present", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
"Portraits", Dane Gallery, Nantucket, USA
- 2005 "Refined portraits", Traver Gallery, Tacoma, Washington, USA
- 2004 "Portraits of life", Traver Gallery, Tacoma, Washington, USA
- 2001 "Linkage", Kirra, Australia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 SOFA Chicago, Navy Pier, Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
"Drink", Canberra Glassworks
Waterhouse Art Prize, South Australian Museum, Adelaide and National Archives of Australia, Canberra
Tom Malone Glass Prize, Perth
Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks and touring nationally
- 2008 "Echoes of Nature", Axia Modern Art, Melbourne

- 2006 "Diversity in Collaboration", Southside Arts, Melbourne
"Reflections: A decade of North Lands Creative Glass, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 2005 "25 years: Monash Glass", Faculty Gallery, Monash University, Melbourne
- 2004 "1st Annual World Glass Exhibition", Traver Gallery, Tacoma, Washington, USA
Ranamok Glass Prize, touring nationally
"Pilchuck 20", Stewart Gallery, Boise, Idaho, USA
- 2003 "Hot Glass 2003", Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
Ranamok Glass Prize, touring nationally
- 2002 "Ecstasy", Quadrivium, Sydney
"Dialogue", Quadrivium, Sydney
Ranamok Glass Prize, touring nationally
Northlands Residency Exhibition, Caithness, Scotland
- 2001 Ausglass Members' Show, Faculty Gallery, Monash University, Melbourne
"The Cutting Edge", Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
"Lust", Australian Contemporary Glass, Quadrivium, Sydney
"Glass Art In Australia", Quadrivium
Cheongju-International Craft Biennale, Korea
"Vessels of the Victorious", Makers Mark, Melbourne
- 2000 "The Cutting Edge" (travelling exhibition), Brisbane City Gallery; Object Gallery, Sydney; Galerie Handwerk, Munich
- 1998 Aperto Vetro, Venice, Italy
- 1997 "Bowled over", Savode Gallery, Brisbane, Qld
Contemporary Australian Glass, Arica Gallery, Perth
- 1995 "Glass Australia 1995", Melbourne
Ausglass Members' Show, Adelaide, SA
- 1993 A.C.I. Glass Exhibition, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
- 1992 "1000 Goblets", Nakama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
"Victorian Tableware", Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2003 People's Choice Award, Ranamok Glass Prize, Perth, WA
- 2000 Finalist, RFC Glass Prize
- 1998 Pilchuck Scholarship, Dino Rosin: Hot sculpting glass
- 1997 Nominee, Saxe Award, Pilchuck Glass School

PUBLICATIONS

- 2010 "What do we fear and want?", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 22 June
- 2007 "Private journey's simple success", Meredith Hinchliffe, *Canberra Times*, 16 August
- 2003 "Hot-sculpted nuances", Gordon Foulds, *Craft Arts International*, no. 59

REPRESENTED

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Glass Collection, Wagga Wagga, NSW; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; Glass Museum, Nijima, Japan; Ebeltoft Glass Museum, Denmark; Northlands Creative Glass Collection, Lybster, Scotland