

KELLY AUSTIN

Ceramic artist Kelly Austin is interested in how an understanding of one object may influence the perception of another; in the 'friction' between the recognisable and the abstract; in how placement and proximity, harmony and discord can generate various propositions and illusions. In her work, she explores the arrangement of ceramic objects in still life compositions, with the relationships between the individual objects weaving the constructed groups together. "Black pulls toward grey, interrupted by green and red ... Movement sits alongside stillness in a conversation with balance", she writes. Her works present an overall sense of resonance and softness through the use of colour, tone and shadow. The introduction of glass and block forms are also a new element to her practice, further enhancing moments of distortion and interest. Although simple in appearance, they show a mastery of technique. Each exquisite piece is carefully considered, beautifully made and invites the viewer to reflect on the combination of form, texture and colour. In a recent development for Kelly, she has experimented with ideas of erosion by introducing into the clay fragments of dolerite, which melt during firing. Pockets and pits remain in their absence, leaving traces of dark brown in the merged clay and glaze.

Kelly Austin was born in Vancouver, Canada, and currently lives and works in Tasmania. She received her Bachelor of General Fine Arts from the Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver and, in 2016, completed her Masters of Philosophy – Ceramics at the Australian National University. She has also recently completed a Bachelor of Architecture and Built Environment at the University of Tasmania. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, most significantly, in 2019, Kelly was the winner of the National Still Life Award at the Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery and she also received the High Commendation award in Victoria's prestigious Clunes Ceramic Award. Kelly's work is in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery and Devonport Regional Gallery.

BIOGRAPHY

- 2009 Studio Assistant, Julie York, Vancouver, Canada
Studio Assistant, Gailan Ngan, Vancouver, Canada
- 2010 Workshop Assistant, Andy Shaw, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, USA
Teaching assistant, Julie York, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada
- 2011 Bachelor of General Fine Arts, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada
Board Member, Potter's Guild of BC, Vancouver, Canada
- 2012 Artist in residence, Medalta International Artist in Residence Program, Medicine Hat, Canada
- 2014 Teaching Assistant, Ceramics, Watson Art Centre, Canberra
Studio Assistant, Ben Richardson, Sandford
Studio Assistant, Chris Harford, Canberra
- 2015–16 Teacher, Ceramics, Australian National University, Canberra
Teacher, Ceramics, Watson Art Centre, Canberra
- 2016 Master of Philosophy – Ceramics, Australian National University, Canberra
Artist in residence, Tasmanian College of the Arts, Launceston
- 2017 - Teacher, TasTAFE, Hobart
- 2020-22 Bachelor of Architecture and Built Environment, University of Launceston, Tas
- 2021 Artist in residence, Q Bank Gallery, Queenstown, Australia
- 2022 Conference Panelist, Australian Ceramics Triennale, Alice Springs
- 2024 Artist in residence, Bundanon, Illaroo, Australia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 "Duality", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2022 "An elemental persistence", Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 2020 "Moments of darkness and of light", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2019 "Placing things", Devonport Regional Gallery, Tas
- 2018 "Resonant things", Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 2017 "A Space for Softness", CraftACT, Canberra
- 2016 "Composed Ambiguity", School of Art Gallery, University of Tasmania
- 2013 "Compositions", Craft Council of BC Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Make Award: Biennial Prize for Innovation in Australian Craft and Design", Australian Design Centre, Sydney and Jam Factory, Adelaide
"Export", Design Tasmania and Melbourne Design Fair
- 2022 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf, NSW

- North Queensland Ceramic Awards, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville, Qld
"Settings for Uncertainty", Schoolhouse Gallery, Rosny, Tas
Clunes Ceramic Award exhibition, Clunes, Vic
HeidiMOMA, Melbourne, Vic
"A Show of Strength", Bett Gallery, Hobart
- 2020 "New acquisitions", Devonport Regional Gallery, Tas
- 2019 Clunes Ceramic Award exhibition, Clunes, Vic
"Still: National Still Life Award", Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
"Interstitial", Bett Gallery, Hobart
Women's Art Prize, Academy Gallery, Launceston & Rosny Barn, Rosny, Tas
"Australian women artists, collected by Australian women", Moonah Arts Centre, Tas
- 2018 "A point of difference" with Dai Li and Kenji Uranishi, Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Emerging Australian artists", Clay Gulgong International Ceramics Conference, Gulgong, NSW
- 2017 "Still: National Still Life Award", Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
"Innovation", Tasmanian Craft Fair, Tas
Clunes Ceramic Award exhibition, Clunes, NSW
- 2016 Graduation Exhibition, School of Art Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra
BC Creative Achievement Award, BC Craft Council Gallery, YVR, Richmond, Canada
"Handpicked Handmade, Gallery KLEI, Sydney
30th International Gold Coast Ceramic Award, The Arts Centre, Gold Coast, Qld
"Throw open the doors", Memorial Hall, Gulgong, NSW
- 2015 "The Tandem Project", Gaffa Gallery, Sydney
Members Exhibition, Canberra Potter's Society, Watson Art Centre, Canberra
"Mud, Hands, Fire", School of Art Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra
Hobart Art Prize Exhibition, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
Clunes Ceramic Award Exhibition, Union Bank Arts Centre, Clunes, VIC
"Practice", School of Art Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra
"Surrounds", Watson Art Centre, Canberra
"Protean", Nishi Gallery, Canberra
Student and Teacher Exhibition, Watson Art Centre, Canberra
"Emerging Contemporaries", Craft ACT, Canberra
The Mud Factory, Art Not Apart Festival, Canberra
- 2014 Port Hacking National Pottery Exhibition, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gympie, NSW
"Modern Market", Design Canberra Festival, Canberra
Member's Exhibition, Watson Art Centre, Canberra
"Random", School of Art Gallery (foyer), Australian National University, Canberra
- 2013 "A show of Ceramics", Walrus, Vancouver, Canada
"Coming up next", Alberta Craft Council, Edmonton, Canada
- 2012 "Pots, Pots, Pots", Gallery of BC Ceramics, Vancouver, Canada
Student scholarship Recipients, Circle Craft, Vancouver, Canada
- 2011 "New Design BC", Cutty Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
"Celebrate the Bowl", Gallery of BC Ceramics, Vancouver, Canada
Emily Carr University Award Winners, Windsor Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
"First Serve", Gallery of BC Ceramics, Vancouver, Canada
Graduation show, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada
"Please do not touch", Concourse Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
- 2010 Moving through the Image, Concourse Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
- 2009 "The Green Life", Concourse Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
"The Portrait Show", The Brow Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
- 2008 "Leaf", Canvas Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
"This is green", Concourse Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2021 Finalist, Women's Art Prize, Tasmania
- 2019 Winner, "Still: National Still Life Award", Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW
High commendation, Clunes Ceramic Award Exhibition, Clunes, NSW
- 2018 Highly commended, North Queensland Ceramic Awards, Townsville, Qld

- 2016 Finalist, Contemporary Art Awards, Brisbane
Out of Round Funding, Arts ACT, Canberra
EASS Patrons of HDR Award, ANU School of Art, Canberra
Award of Excellence, Handpicked Handmade, Gallery KLEI, Sydney
- 2015 McGrath Emerging Artist Award, CAPO, Canberra
Keane Ceramics Tertiary Student Award, Canberra Potter's Society, Canberra
Carter Wosk BC Creative Achievement Award, BC Achievement Foundation, Canada
- 2014 Senior Student Scholarship, BC Arts Council, Canada
Finalist, Port Hacking National Pottery Exhibition, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gympie
- 2011 Maureen Wright Scholarship, North West Ceramic Foundation, Vancouver, Canada
Circle Craft Co-operative Scholarship, Vancouver, Canada
Michael Lax Scholarship, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, USA
- 2010 Senior Student Scholarship, BC Arts Council, Canada
Mary Beasom Bishop and Francis Sumner Merritt Scholarship, Haystack School, Deer Isle, USA
Jack Harman Memorial Scholarship, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada
North West Ceramics Scholarship, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada
- 2009 Tamarissa Hoskin Memorial Scholarship, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada
John Jordon Memorial Scholarship, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada
Evangelos Apostolides Scholarship, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada
- 2008 Steven John Hodge Memorial Scholarship, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada
Soren Rasmussen Annual Scholarship, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 "Earth Standing Still", D Wood, *Ceramics Monthly*
- 2022 "Suspended Decompositions", Jane Stewart, *Garland Magazine*
"Chaos in face of uncertainty", Andrew Harper, *TasWeekend, Mercury*
"In Search of Place", Rebecca Coates, *Ceramic Art and Perception*
- 2020 "Stillness in porcelain and stone", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 14 November
- 2019 "Still life propositions", Patsy Hely, *Island magazine*
- 2018 "Trio combine talents for ceramics show", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 21 November
"Emerging maker, Kelly Austin", Isabella Best, *Ceramic Review*
"Kelly Austin and the metaphysics of ceramics", Damon Moon, *Journal of Australian Ceramics*
- 2017 *A Space for Softness*, Dr Patsy Hely, Craft ACT, Canberra
- 2015 "Constant Movement in Space and Time", Kelly Austin, *Australian Journal of Ceramics*
"Protean by Claybodies is Diverse and Polarizing", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Sydney Morning Herald*
"Craft Review: Emerging Contemporaries", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart; Art Gallery of Ballarat, Vic; Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, NSW; Devonport Regional Gallery, Tas