

## SOMCHAI CHAROEN

*Somchai Charoen was born in Thailand in the 1960s and moved to Australia in 2001. Trained in industrial ceramic design, he was a former lecturer at Silpakorn University in Bangkok. Through his ceramics, Somchai aims to explore the imagined interiors, sounds and textures of mountains and the landscapes that contain them. Somchai's recent work 'Sala' draws on his Thai heritage and he says of this series "Sala is considered as a Symbol for many aspects and characteristics of Thai social life where ideas are debated, expressed and shaped, relationships are built and celebrations shared. My messages and vision of the Sala as spiritual space - a place for contemplation, healing and peace."*

*Since migrating to Australia, Somchai has worked commercially as a mould and model maker, enabling him to establish his ceramic home ware label. Somchai is the co-founder of Belmore ITCH, a creative residency for non-ceramic artists to experiment, explore and interpret the medium. He has exhibited widely in both Australia and overseas.*

### BIOGRAPHY

- 1966 Born Bangkok, Thailand
- 1992 BFA (Ceramics) Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
- 1996 BA (Marketing) Sukothai University, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2000 Chairperson of Academic and Judgment Committee, The 10th National Ceramics Competition, Thailand
- 2000-01 Head of Ceramics Department, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2001-10 Model & Mould Maker, Mud Australia
- 2002-03 Lecturer (casual) College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales
- 2009 Part time teacher, Ceramics Design Studio, Gymea/Sutherland Tafe
- 2010- Full time, self-employed, mould & model maker
- 2018- Sessional lecturer at National Arts School, Sydney

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 "Lookout", Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Newtown, Sydney
- 1999 "My Love-My Work", Rotunda Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 "Built: contemporary ceramics", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
"Preliminary Structures", Creo Gallery, Cremorne, Vic
- 2020 "HERE WITH ME", Curatorial+Co, Sydney
- 2019 "Small works 2019", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
"Slow Clay", Collective x, Melbourne  
"Un/Thai, Grau Projekt, Melbourne
- 2018 "Port Hacking Potters, 50th National Pottery Competition", Hazelhurst Gallery, NSW  
"LAYERED, a multifaceted Trio Show," Saint Cloche, Sydney  
"Couplings Show", Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney
- 2017 The White Room, Stanley Street Gallery, Darlinghurst, Sydney
- 2016 "Small works 2016", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2015 "CHOICE", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
Cadavre Exquis' Accelerator Gallery, Sydney  
"Sculpture at Scenic World" Katoomba, NSW
- 2014 "Earth and fire: 3<sup>rd</sup> Southeast Asian Ceramics Symposium, Virginia, USA  
"HIDDEN: A Sculpture Walk," Rookwood Cemetery, NSW  
"Crossing Boundaries," Sydney Town Hall Gallery KLEI, Sydney
- 2013 Burapha Arts Exhibition, Connect: Expand+, The National Gallery Bangkok, Thailand  
Meeting Place, Gold Coast City Art Gallery  
"Snake", Sydney Town Hall  
"The Ceramic Study Group Celebrates 50 years", Wallarobba Gallery, Hornsby, NSW
- 2012 "Pacific Rim Connections", Azuma Gallery, Seattle, USA  
"Teachers Show", Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Newtown, Sydney
- 2011 "In Clay", Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, Gymea, NSW
- 2010 "In Good Company", Object Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 "The Good, The Bad, The Muddy", Mori Gallery, Sydney  
"Transferring the Image", Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Newtown, Sydney

- 2008 "The 26<sup>th</sup> Gold Coast International Ceramics Art Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery  
Marrickville Contemporary Art Prize, The Vanishing Point-Contemporary Art, Sydney  
Finalist, Stanthorpe Art Prize, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, Queensland  
"The Christmas Collection", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
"One Year On", Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Newtown, Sydney
- 2007 "Art in the park", Maundrell Park, Petersham, Sydney  
"The Cup Show", Helen Stephens Gallery, Sydney  
Marrickville Contemporary Art Prize, At the Vanishing Point-Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 2006 "Eat Clay", Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney
- 2001 "Art From Clay", Exhibition Hall, Central Chidlom, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2000 "Sculpture of Life", Ban Ratchawat, Bangkok, Thailand  
"Art for Silpa Bhirasri", Silpakorn Art Centre, Bangkok, Thailand  
"Thai - Italian Art Space", Praprompichit Art Centre, Bangkok, Thailand  
The 10<sup>th</sup> National Ceramics Exhibition, Silpakorn University Art Centre, Bangkok, Thailand  
The Exhibition of Art and Design, Art and Design Gallery, Silpakorn, Bangkok, Thailand

**AWARDS / COMMISSIONS**

- 2008 Director's Acquisitive and Director's Choice Award, Marrickville Contemporary Art Prize, Sydney
- 2007 Highly Commended - Open Award, Marrickville Contemporary Art Prize, Sydney

**PUBLICATIONS**

- 2021 "Nature and the modern world collide", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 6 December
- 2015 "Linkages and Cultural Diversity in International Ceramics", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 18 July

**COLLECTIONS**

At The Vanishing Point Contemporary Art, Newtown, NSW; University of Western Sydney