

NIKKI MAIN

Nikki Main's fascination with water and rivers, in particular, provide her with the inspiration for her elegant and tactile glass forms. The play of light across the water's surface and the movement of water in the landscape contrasts with the solidity of the stones on the river bed. Nikki's interest is in the "bones" of a landscape and the way the presence of water is a critical element in providing fertility and structure to the soil. The water, too, has its own flow and shape. As we look at Nikki's pieces we can imagine the twists of a river or a cascade of water over rocks. The blown glass forms mirror the shapes of river stones and provide a canvas for the glass powders. The colours of these powders reference materials such as moss, sediment and even reptile skin found on the water's edge and the shapes, seemingly smoothed and fashioned over time, demonstrate the power of water. As a contrast, the vessel form suggests containment and represents the human need to capture inland water for personal use. As the artist says of her work "Both forms stand as sentinels, timeless and still - watching and waiting".

Nikki graduated from the Australian National University with Bachelor of Arts (Visual) and first class honours in 2008. She also has a Masters degree in Education and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Health Education, both from the University of Canberra. Nikki teaches part-time at the ANU's glass workshop and the Canberra Glassworks. In 2010, Nikki Main became the first glass artist to win the prestigious Waterhouse Art Prize at the South Australian Museum and has been selected twice as a finalist in the Ranamok Glass Prize, in 2011 and 2012. In 2022 Nikki was selected as a finalist in the Northern Beaches Council Environmental Art and Design Award.

BIOGRAPHY

1959	Born UK
1990	Masters in Education, University of Canberra
1997	Bachelor of Applied Science in Health Education, University of Canberra
2008	Bachelor of Arts, (Visual), Honours (First), ANU
2011	Tutor, Australian National University Glass Workshop
2013	Assistant Curator of Public Programs, Craft ACT Thomas Foundation Residency, Canberra Glassworks
2013-14	Art and Alzheimer's Outreach Project Officer, NGA
2019-21	Gallery assistant at Kings and Ayres, Wollongong, NSW

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023	"Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra "Artisans in the Gardens", Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney "Fragility", Clifton School of Arts, NSW
2022	"Web", Sturt Gallery, Mittagong, NSW
2021	"Fungi", Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney
2020	"Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra "C/- Care of", CraftACT, Canberra "Transformation", King and Ayres, Wollongong, NSW "Adroit", Ivy Hill Gallery, Tartha, NSW
2019	"Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra "Out of the Illawarra", Fountain Court, NSW State Parliament, Sydney "Hand in hand – Art4 Refugees", Project Contemporary Artspace, Wollongong, NSW
2018	"Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra "Port, Poles and Wires", Wollongong University, NSW "Small works 2017", Beaver Galleries, Canberra "Double Vision", Precinct Galleries, Berry, NSW "On Track", Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong, NSW "Port, Poles and Wires", Redpoint Gallery, Port Kembla, NSW "Home is Where the Heat is", Wagga Wagga Regional Gallery, Wagga Wagga, NSW
2017	"Small works 2017", Beaver Galleries, Canberra "Art4Refugees", iAccelerate, NSW "Home is Where the Heat is", Canberra Glassworks, Canberra "History Repeated", Craft ACT, Canberra
2016	"Citizens of Craft", Craft ACT, Canberra
2015-16	"Science & Art: 12 years of the Waterhouse Prize", National Archives of Australia and South Australian Museum
2014	"Artisans in the Gardens", Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney
2013	"Canberra Glass 2013", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2012	"Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks, Canberra

- 2011 "Signature", Craft ACT, Canberra
"Rain Gauge" (with Sally Blake and Vedanta Nicholson), Sturt Gallery, Mittagong
"Sentinels" (with Virginia Kaiser), Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"TasArt", Burnie Regional Art Gallery, Tasmania
Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks, Canberra
"Drink", Canberra Glassworks, Canberra
"The Cotter: watering the garden city 1912 - 2011", Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra
"Peripheral Vision", Ausglass conference, Sydney
- 2010 "Through Other Eyes: Nikki Main and Jessie Surplice", ANCA, Canberra
"Altered states", Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra
Waterhouse Art Prize, South Australian Museum, Adelaide and National Archives of Australia, Canberra
- 2009 "Limited lines", Canberra Glassworks, Canberra
"Half light: Nikki Main and Stephanie Haygarth", Foyer Gallery, ANU School of Art, Canberra
"Containing the past, sustaining the future", Canberra Glassworks, Canberra
"Launch", Glass Artists Gallery, Sydney
Ausglass conference, Hobart
"Making tracks", ANCA, Canberra
- 2008 Drawing prize exhibition, ANU School of Art, Canberra
Graduation exhibition, ANU School of Art, Canberra
Weereewa Works on Paper Prize - inaugural exhibition, Bungendore Woodworks Gallery, NSW
Ausglass conference, Canberra
- 2007 Drawing prize exhibition, ANU School of Art, Canberra
Graduation exhibition, ANU School of Art, Canberra
"Water, water", Australian National University, Canberra
- 2005 Glass Art Society conference, Adelaide
- 2004 Kamberra Wine Prize, Kamberra Wine Company, Canberra

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2022 Finalist, Environmental Art and Design Award, Northern Beaches Council, NSW
- 2012 Finalist, Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks, Canberra and touring nationally
- 2011 Finalist, Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks, Canberra and touring nationally
Visual Arts Award, Canberra Critics Circle
- 2010 Overall Winner, Waterhouse Art Prize, South Australian Museum, Adelaide
- 2009 Cotter Dam Expansion Project Residency (Canberra Glassworks)
Highly Commended, Waterhouse Art Prize, South Australian Museum, Adelaide
Graduate in residence, ANU School of Art, Canberra
Janet Holmes à Court Artists' Grant, National Association for Visual Artists, Sydney
- 2008 Finalist, ANU Drawing Prize, ANU School of Art, Canberra
Emerging Artist Support Scheme Residency Award (Canberra Glassworks), ANU School of Art, Canberra
Emerging Artist Support Scheme Honours Scholarship, ANU School of Art, Canberra
Second Prize, Weereewa Works on Paper Prize, Bungendore, NSW
- 2007 Finalist, ANU Drawing Prize, ANU School of Art, Canberra
- 2005 Scholarship for Giles Bettison workshop (Jamfactory, Adelaide), ANU School of Art, Canberra

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 "Fragility", Ben Wollen, *Illawarra Flame*
- 2018 "Time To: Work With Glass", Janice Creenaune, *2515 Coast News*
- 2015 "Waterhouse Winner's Exhibition", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times Panorama Magazine*
- 2013 "Ecological Reflections", Meredith Hinchliffe, *Craft Arts International*, No. 89
- 2010 "Glass creation wins Waterhouse Art Prize", Ashley Walsh, *ABC News*, 16 July
"Natural born winners", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 30 September
"Focus on flood stones", Diana Streak, *Canberra Times*, July
"Glass a clear winner as ACT hosts prized works", Diana Streak, *Canberra Times*, September 24
"Naturally, just a smooth way", Lyn Mills, *The Canberra Times*, September 30
"Local artists reflect nature's beauty", *Canberra Weekly*
"Gobsmacked artist lands \$50,000 prize for glass sculpture", Diana Streak, *Canberra Times*, July 17
"River of dreams", Patrick McDonald, *The Advertiser*, July 17
Art Notes, *Art Monthly Australia*, Issue #235, November

Profiles, *Art Almanac*, October

"Images from emerging artists", Jacqueline Williams, *Canberra Times*, 30 October

2009 "Depth in Cotter reflections", Meredith Hinchliffe, *Canberra Times*, 6 May

"Dam - it's a powerful, inspiring art space", Diana Streak, *Canberra Times*, April 9

"Fish top in Waterhouse", Diana Streak, *Canberra Times*, September

"Gift-rapt pleasures", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 14 December

COLLECTIONS

South Australian Museum, Adelaide