

## RUTH OLIPHANT

*Glass artist Ruth Oliphant is concerned with the interrelationships between place, visual memory and perception. She is intrigued by the way impressions of a destination are filtered through memory and experience. She draws her imagery from urban environments - windows, streetscapes and historic power stations and brickworks all allow Ruth to explore interesting architectural details and the passage of time. Ruth invites us to navigate scenes which speak of the poetic facilities of the mind as much as of the sites they depict. In her personal journey, Ruth has been inspired in both her study and glass work by her renowned architect grandfather Kenneth Oliphant. Art critic Peter Haynes wrote of Ruth's work in her 2015 exhibition, and these observations still stand true for this carefully observed show, "... continue the artist's interest in the built environment and here particularly with the changing effects of light as we progress through the day. She has elected to capitalise on the psychological impact of the empty room, the space devoid of human presence, pared back to its architectural essentials..."*

*Ruth Oliphant commenced her studies in architecture before changing to a Bachelor of Arts/Visual, majoring in glass, at the ANU Institute of the Arts in Canberra. She graduated with Honours in 2008 and, in that same year, received the Ranamok Glass Award People's Choice prize and the Embassy of Spain Award. In 2009, Ruth received the Vicki Torr Memorial Prize and, in 2014, she was awarded an Endeavour Fellowship to undertake residencies at the prestigious Berlin Glas Studio, (Germany) and Bullseye Glass Company (USA). In 2015, she participated in the Artist-in-Schools Program, an initiative of the Australia Council for the Arts in partnership with artsACT and the ACT Education and Training Directorate. Ruth's first solo exhibition was with Beaver Galleries in September 2009 and was part of an award by the gallery to support a new and exciting recent graduate.*

### BIOGRAPHY

- 1977 Born Canberra
- 1997-99 Studied Architecture, University of Canberra
- 2001-03 Certificate in Furnishing (Leadlighting and Stained Glass), Holmesglen TAFE, Melbourne  
Apprentice in Traditional Stained Glass restoration and construction, Melbourne
- 2004-08 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours) majoring in glass, Australian National University Institute of the Arts, Canberra
- 2006 Teaching assistant for Claudia Borella, Bullseye
- 2007 Artist in residence, Canberra Glassworks, Canberra
- 2008 Co-ordinator, "Open Slather", Ausglass Members' Exhibition
- 2010-11 Board member of Ausglass
- 2012-14 Education Manager, Canberra Glassworks, Canberra
- 2014 Artist in residence, Berlin Glas e.V, Berlin, Germany  
Artist in residence, Bullseye Glass Company, Portland, Oregon, USA
- 2015 Artists-in-Schools program, artsACT
- 2017 Artist in residence, Canberra Glassworks

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 "From the ground up – moments inspired by Yarralumla Brickworks", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2015 "Where the light falls", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2012 "Looking out", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2009 Beaver Galleries, Canberra

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 "Small works 2017", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
"Home is where the heat is", Canberra Glassworks  
"Refraction", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2016 SOFA Chicago, USA (Kirra Galleries)
- 2015 SOFA Chicago, USA (Kirra Galleries)
- 2014 "Narratives in Glass", Kirra Galleries, Melbourne
- 2013 "Canberra Glass 2013", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
SOFA Chicago, USA (Kirra Galleries)  
"Perspectives: Interior-Exterior", Kirra Galleries, Melbourne  
"10 Squared", Canberra Glassworks  
"The Kitchen Table", M16 Gallery, Canberra
- 2012 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
SOFA Chicago, USA (Kirra Galleries)  
"Storytelling", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney  
"Eat", Canberra Glassworks

- 2011 SOFA Chicago, USA (Kirra Galleries)  
"Reflections", Kirra Galleries, Melbourne  
"Drink", Canberra Glassworks  
"inFORM", Bullseye Gallery, Portland, USA
- 2010 SOFA Chicago, USA (Kirra Galleries)  
"Gather", Winnders of the Ausglass and NAS Sabbia Awards, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 30th anniversary Ausglass Members' Exhibition, Hobart  
"Maestro's: Australian Studio Glass and Ceramics", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2008 "open slather", Ausglass Members' Exhibition, Australian National University, Canberra  
"Emerge", Glass Art Society exhibition, Portland, Oregon, USA  
Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks, Canberra  
"Layer: Reflections on Place", Canberra Glassworks, Canberra  
School of Art Graduating Show, Australian National University, Canberra
- 2007 Ranamok Glass Prize
- 2006 "Flare", Kamberra Winery, Canberra
- 2005 "Curators Pick", Kamberra Winery, Canberra

**AWARDS / COMMISSIONS**

- 2014 Endeavour Fellowship
- 2009 Sabbia Exhibition Prize for Students, Ausglass, Hobart  
Vicki Torr Memorial Prize, Ausglass, Hobart
- 2008 Beaver Galleries Exhibition Prize, Ausglass, Canberra  
People's Choice Award (Canberra), Ranamok Glass Prize  
Embassy of Spain Award (ANU Graduation)  
Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society Award (ANU Graduation)
- 2007 Canberra Glassworks Residency Award
- 2006 Glass Arts Society (USA) Student Prize, Ausglass, Adelaide  
Scholarship to Pilchuck Glass School, Seattle, USA
- 2002 Runner up, Stained Glass Apprentice of the Year
- 2001 Stained Glass Apprentice of the Year

**PUBLICATIONS**

- 2019 "Accomplished, innovative works", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 21 November  
"Oliphant's glass works tell a 'unique' Canberra story", Meredith Hinchliffe, *citynews.com.au*, 15 November
- 2015 "Exploring where the light falls", Peter Haynes, *Canberra Times*, 30 October
- 2013 "10 Squared", exhibition catalogue, Canberra Glassworks
- 2012 "Through the looking glass", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 20 June
- 2010 "Ruth Oliphant, Journey from Student to Artist", *Craft Arts International*, Issue 78, pp. 44-48  
"Focus on - Studio Glass", *CA enews, A Craft Australia Publication*, Issue 50, April
- 2009 ABC TV *Collectors*, review of Ausglass exhibition, 10 July  
"Drama and discovery in glass", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 8 September

**COLLECTIONS**

Canberra Museum and Gallery