

MARICELLE OLIVIER

Maricelle Olivier is an emerging artist exploring her personal history and creating her own space of belonging through the medium of ceramics. A strong connection to her birthplace of South Africa, along with her formal training in Australia and time spent working at the Ernabella Arts Centre, infuses her work with a unique cross-cultural language. Abstracted imagery, colour, pattern, light and shadow are all explored in the forms and surface decoration of her beautiful hand-built vessels. Maricelle's inspiration weaves together her nostalgic memories of the safari landscape of South Africa, with the vivid colours and patterns of the Australian desert and native birdlife, finding similarities between them. "When I look at my works collectively, I see and feel home". Her elegant vessels, combined with her intricate line work, are reminiscent of African basketry and woven textiles. The repetitive and meditative nature of Maricelle's practice is exemplified across all aspects of her making process. She makes and layers each clay coil, then smoothes and joins together sections to build the form and finally follows with the line work and patterns of her surface decoration. The interplay of all these elements creates a stunning visceral experience where, as Maricelle explains, "the vessels transform into embodiments to hold and reflect emotions."

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Maricelle immigrated to Australia in 2007 and began studying at the National Art School, Sydney in 2014, completing a Master of Fine Art specialising in ceramics in 2018. From 2019 to 2021 she worked as the Ceramics Studio Manager at Ernabella Arts Centre, located in far northwest South Australia. In 2020, Maricelle was a finalist in the inaugural Lake Art Prize in Booragul, NSW. She is currently based in Canberra and is a ceramics teacher at the Canberra Potters Society. A selection of her works has been acquired by the National Art School and City of Sydney into their collections and her work is held in private collections across Australia, South Africa and Europe.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1995 Born Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2014-16 Bachelor of Fine Art (ceramics), National Art School, Sydney
- 2017-18 Master of Fine Art (ceramics), National Art School, Sydney
- 2019-21 Ceramic Studio Manager, Ernabella Arts, SA
- 2022 Ceramics teacher, Canberra Potters Society, Canberra

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 "A delicate endurance", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2022 "Chiaroscuro", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
"Quiet Company", Jennings Kerr, Robertson, NSW
- 2021 "Technicolour Desert", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2020 "Love Bird", Gaffa Gallery, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
North Queensland Ceramic Awards, Townsville, Qld
"Australiana", JamFactory Seppeltfield, SA
- 2020-23 "Clay Dynasty", Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
- 2020-21 The Lake Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, Museum of Art and Culture, Lake Macquarie, NSW
- 2020 "The Space Within", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2019 "It's a Wrap", White Rhino Art Space, Sydney
- 2018 "Released: Post Graduate Exhibition", Rayner Hoff Space, National Art School, Sydney
"Make your Mark!", White Rhino Artspace, Sydney
"O!Darlo Exhibition", Darlo Bar, Sydney
National Art School Student Exhibition, Memorial Hall, Gulgong, NSW
- 2017 "Clay - Where We Came From", Bondi Pavilion Gallery, Sydney
"Get Amongst It", Gaffa Gallery, Sydney
- 2016 Graduate Exhibition, National Art School Gallery, Sydney
"Mud Mix", The Library Staircase, National Art School, Sydney

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2020 Finalist, The Lake Art Prize, Museum of Art and Culture, Lake Macquarie, NSW
- 2018 The Australian Ceramics Association Prize, NSW
- 2016 Mansfield Third Year Ceramics Student Award, NSW

COLLECTIONS

National Art School, Sydney; City of Sydney, NSW