

## AVITAL SHEFFER

*Avital Sheffer's work is informed by an investigation of her Jewish heritage and the landscape, architecture, languages and wisdom that arise from an interweaving of related European and Middle Eastern cultures. Ancient ceramics, glass, metalware and calligraphy are a source of inspiration. Ancient ceramics, glass, metalware and calligraphy are a well of inspiration. The elegant and expressive designs on the surface of her vessels come from a library of ancient Semitic, Arabic and Hellenic texts and imagery she has gathered from museums and libraries around the world. Recently, Avital has begun to introduce some carving onto her vessels to create three dimensional surfaces that reference the carved facades of Islamic architecture. Living in Australia has also been an important influence on her work; "...absorbing influences of landscape and light offers a unique perspective from which I reevaluate my complex heritage. I am interested in the frayed edges of mythologies and language, where dialogue and cross-fertilization between cultures takes place. Personal experiences of conflict, migration, dislocation and renewal intersect with the dilemmas between traditions and modernity." Avital's ceramic vessels are hand-formed, constructed with coil, slab and mould, fired multiple times with applications of slips, glazes, terra sigillatas and prints.*

*Avital Sheffer grew up in Israel, where she practiced fashion and textile design, building design and town planning. After migrating to Australia in 1990 and settling on the North Coast of NSW, she turned to the making of ceramics, receiving a Diploma in ceramics from Lismore TAFE College in 2003. Over the last ten years Avital has exhibited widely across Australia and the USA, and has been a finalist in numerous awards including the Blake Prize, Muswellbrook Art Prize, Manning Art Prize and IV International Biennial of Ceramics in Korea. In 2014, she was awarded an Australian Council for the Arts skills and development grant which enabled her to complete her recent residency in Barcelona. Avital Sheffer is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics and her work is represented in many collections including the National Gallery of Australia, Powerhouse Museum, Ateliers d'Art de France, Manly Art Gallery and Museum and many regional galleries across Australia.*

### BIOGRAPHY

1954	Born Jaffa, Israel
1980-85	Fashion design and manufacturing, Israel
1980-90	Architecture/landscape design, Clil cooperative for Settlement and Development, Western Galilee, Israel
1990	Migrated to Australia
2004	Diploma in Ceramics, TAFE, Lismore, NSW
2009	Elected for membership of the International Academy of Ceramics, Geneva
2010	Artist residency, SODA Fremantle, WA
2011	Artist in residence, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
2016	Artist in residence, Barcelona

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019	"Terra Profunda", Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery, London
2018	"Orchard of Time", Artvisory, Melbourne "Avital Sheffer, Solo Exhibition", Tansey Contemporary, Denver, Colorado
2017	"Wanderlust", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2016	"Terra Entera", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
2015	"Intimate distance", Stephanie Hoppen Gallery, London, UK
2014	"Edge of memory", Beaver Galleries, Canberra "Terra Oculata", Stephanie Hoppen Gallery, London, UK "Embodied", Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW "Beneath my Feet", Lasting Impressions Gallery, Kenilworth, QLD
2013	"Confluence", Anthea Polson Art, Gold Coast, Qld
2012	"Terra Forma", Gadfly Gallery, Perth "Life of Form", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
2011	"New Ceramic Sculptures", Beaux Arts, Bath, UK "Mother tongues", Beaver Galleries, Canberra "Terra memoria", Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne
2010	"Continuum", Anthea Polson Art, Gold Coast, Qld "Peregrinations", Gadfly Gallery, Perth
2009	"Terra Anima", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney "Deep Earth", regional touring exhibition "Origins", Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne
2008	Thomas Riley Galleries, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

- 2007 "Terra intima", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
Jane Sauer Thirteen Moons Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA  
Salmon Galleries, Sydney
- 2006 "Unearthed II", Salmon Galleries, Sydney  
"New work", Lismore Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 2005 "Unearthed", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2004 Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney (with Marguerite Josephson)  
"Under the dome", Tweed River Regional Art Gallery, NSW

**SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2019 "NORTH", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
- 2018 "LAPADA, London", Presented by Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London  
"Small Works", Beaver galleries, Canberra  
"Little Treasures", Anthea Polson Art, Main Beach, QLD  
"Collect, London", Presented by Tansey Contemporary, Santa Fe, USA  
"Palm Beach Art Fair", Presented by Tansey Contemporary, Santa Fe, USA
- 2017 "Ceramic Revisions", May Space Gallery, Sydney  
"Accolade", Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Sydney
- 2016 "International Academy of Ceramics Members Exhibition", Museo del Disseny, Barcelona  
"LA Art Show (Tansey Contemporary) USA  
Melbourne Art Fair (Mossgreen Gallery)  
"La Femina", Grafton Regional Gallery  
"Mir Zehnen Do", Glen Eira City Council Gallery
- 2015 SOFA Chicago (Tansey Contemporary)  
"Well Red", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney  
"Unconventional Con'form'ity", Tansey Contemporary, Santa Fe, USA  
"CHOICE", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2014 "Australian Ceramics", Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne  
"The Object Divine", Lauraine Diggings Gallery, Melbourne  
"Quiet Conversations", Skepsi @ Montsalvat, Skepsi on Swanston, Victoria
- 2013 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2012 "Ceramics now", Bucharest, Romania  
"Enduring Forms", Aptos Cruz Gallery, Adelaide  
"Art Platform Los Angeles", (Gaffer Gallery), Hong Kong  
"Sculpture 24", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 "Art London", Beaux Arts Bath  
"The 60<sup>th</sup> Blake Touring Exhibition"  
"Fairytale in Fairyland", Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW  
"Sculpture 23", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney  
"Confined excitement: pleasures of the void", Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, USA  
New York Arts Pacific Asia Show, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, USA  
30 to collect – Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 International Academy of Ceramics Members, Sevres Cite de la Ceramique, Paris, France  
"Sculpture 22", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney  
"On paper: in time and in others' minds", Art Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW  
"The space between", Aptos Cruz Gallery, Adelaide  
9th Festival in Ceramics, demonstrators' exhibition, University of Ballarat Post Office Gallery, Vic  
"Down memory lane", Framed Gallery, Darwin  
"Art event", Jewish Museum of Australia / NGV International, Melbourne  
"Time + place", Cudgegong Gallery, Gulgong, NSW
- 2009 "White Heat", The Australian Ceramics Association's Biennial Exhibition, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney  
"Sculpture 21", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney  
"forty", Brisbane Grammar School Art Show  
FEHVA Art Exhibition and Auction, Bangalow, NSW  
"Here/Now", Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne  
"Our Most Easterly Edge", Fusions Gallery, Brisbane  
"Clay", NCECA Group Exhibition, Cervini Hass Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA

- 2008 "Palm Beach 3", Thomas Riley Galleries, Cleveland, Ohio, USA  
"Egyptian Treasures: Arts of the Pharaohs", The Australian Museum, Sydney  
"The 58th Touring Blake Prize Exhibition", touring exhibition  
Friends of Bezalel Art Exhibition, Arthouse Hotel, Sydney  
"Heated Words", Fusions Gallery, Brisbane  
"Ceramicos", Waywood Gallery, Byron Bay, NSW  
"Sculpture 20", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney  
"Palm Beach 3", Thomas Riley Galleries, Cleveland, Ohio, USA  
COLLECT, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK (Raglan Galleries, Sydney)  
Sidney Myer International Ceramic Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic  
FEHVA Art Exhibition and Auction, Bangalow, NSW  
2007 SOFA Chicago (Thomas Riley Galleries, Cleveland, Ohio, USA)  
"Palm Beach 3", Thomas Riley Galleries, Cleveland, Ohio, USA  
Art London, UK (Raglan Gallery, Sydney)  
SOFA Chicago (Thomas Riley Galleries, Cleveland, Ohio, USA)  
FEHVA Art Exhibition and Auction, Bangalow, NSW  
2006 "Hand Made", J Johnson Gallery, Jacksonville Beach, Florida, USA  
SOFA New York 2006, New York, USA (Jane SauerThirteen Moons Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA)  
SOFA Chicago 2006, Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)  
"Chrysalis", Lismore Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
"ConVerge", Victor Mace Fine Art Gallery, Brisbane  
Gold-Coast International Ceramic Award, Qld  
FEHVA Art Exhibition and Auction, Bangalow, NSW  
2005 Gold Coast International Ceramic Award, Qld  
The 3rd World Ceramic Biennale, Korea  
SOFA Chicago 2005, Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)  
FEHVA Art Exhibition and Auction, Bangalow, NSW  
2004 "Fusions 2004 Graduate Award Exhibition", Brisbane  
Graduating Students Award Exhibition, Inner City Clayworks, Sydney  
Gold Coast International Ceramic Award, Qld  
"Christmas Exhibition", Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney  
14th Birthday Exhibition, Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney  
Artists Book-Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW  
"Under the Dome", Tweed River Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
2003 Gold Coast International Ceramic Award, Qld  
1999 "Thursday Plantation Sculpture Show", Ballina, NSW

**AWARDS / COMMISSIONS**

- 2016 Finalist, Muswellbrook Art Prize, NSW  
2014 Awarded, Australia Council for the Arts, Skills and Arts Development grant (residency in Barcelona)  
2012 Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award  
The Wilson Visual Arts Award  
Winner, Byron Arts Classic  
2011 Highly Commended, Muswellbrook Open Art Prize, NSW  
Travelling Scholarship Prize, Noosa Regional Gallery, Qld  
Prometheus Visual Arts Award  
Finalist, Burnie Print Prize, Burnie Regional Art Gallery, Tas  
2010 Acquisition Award, Stanthorpe Art Festival, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, Qld  
Finalist, Ergon Energy CQ Ceramic Award, Rockhampton Regional Art Gallery, Qld  
2009 Finalist, Burnie Print Prize, Burnie Regional Art Gallery, Tas  
Highly Commended, Muswellbrook Open Art Prize, Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, NSW  
Finalist, Prometheus Visual Arts Award  
Finalist, IV International Biennial of Ceramics, Talavera de la Reina, Toledo, Spain  
Finalist, The Blake Prize  
Finalist, Manning Art Prize, Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree, NSW  
2008 Grant, Australia Council New Work  
Finalist, The Sidney Myer International Ceramic Award

- 2006 Winner, Border Art Prize, Tweed River Art Gallery, NSW  
Grant, Australia Council New Work  
Finalist, Gold Coast International Ceramic Award
- 2005 Acquisition Award, Gold Coast International Ceramics Award - The Josephine Ulrick Award For Excellence, Qld  
Honorary Mention, The 3rd World Ceramic Biennale International Competition, Korea
- 2004 Finalist, Gold Coast International Ceramic Award
- 2003 Finalist, Gold Coast International Ceramic Award
- 1999 Special Mention, Thursday Plantation Sculpture Show, Ballina, NSW

**PUBLICATIONS**

- 2018 "Intersection Art and Life", Kevin Wallace, *Wood Centre for the Arts*, USA
- 2017 "Vessels with magisterial demeanour", Kerry Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, August, 17 2017  
"Upfront – The Generous Vessel", Ashley Crawford, *Art Collector*, Issue 82 2017  
"The Journal of Australian Ceramics volume 56 #2 2017 Cross Cultural Intersections by Jane Denison  
"Subversive Ceramics", Claudia Clare, *Bloomsbury*, London  
"Het Grote K Boek", Mels Boom, *De kleine K*, The Netherlands
- 2015 "Subversive Ceramics", Claudia Clare, *Bloomsbury*, London  
"Unconventional Conformity", Rochelle Belsito, *American Art Collector*, issue 16, June 2015
- 2014 "Vessels carry an elegant interplay of culture, language and form", Peter Haynes, *Canberra Times*, 5 April
- 2013 "500 Prints on Clay", Paul Andrew Wandless, *Lark Craft Ceramics Now*, issue 2  
"2012 "Life of Form", Lynee Dwyer, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 March
- 2011 "The Pot Book", Edmund de Waal and Claudia Clare  
"Fusing form and decoration", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 17 February
- 2010 Acquisition Award, Stanthorpe Art Festival, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, Qld  
Finalist, Ergon Energy CQ Ceramic Award, Rockhampton Regional Art Gallery, Qld
- 2009 "A present past/ a continuous present", Louise Martin Chew, *Deep Earth* catalogue  
"Avital Sheffer: Body of Work", Ann McMahon, *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, issue 48 no. 1  
"Exhibitions: Avital Sheffer", *Ceramics Monthly*, October  
"White Heat", *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, issue 48 no. 2  
Exhibition review, Dalia Sable, *The Australian Jewish News*, 10 November  
Gallery review, *Ceramic Review*, issue 240  
"Visual Art", Dylan Rainforth, *The Age*, 12 November
- 2008 "New works by Avital Sheffer", Pollyanna Sutton, *Craft Arts International*, issue 72  
"Encoded sentinels", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 25 October
- 2007 "Avital Sheffer: Exhibition", *Craft Arts International*, issue 71  
*Art London 2007* Catalogue  
"ConVerge: The Strength of a Region", Grace Cochrane, *Ceramics Art and Perception*, issue 67
- 2006 "24th Gold Coast International Ceramic Award", *Craft Arts International*, issue 66  
"The Emergence of Northern Rivers Artists", Louise Martin Chew, *Chrysalis* catalogue  
"ConVerge: Northern Rivers Touring Exhibition Catalogue", Kerry Selwood, Arts Northern Rivers, September  
*SOFA Chicago 2006* catalogue
- 2005 "Tradition to Modernity", Gordon Foulds, *Craft Arts International*, issue 64  
"Unearthed culture", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 22 September  
*Ceramics Art and Perception*, issue 60
- 2004 *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, issue 43 # 2  
*The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, issue 43 # 3

**COLLECTIONS**

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld; Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney; Atelier d'Art de France, Paris, France; Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW; Tweed River Art Gallery, NSW; Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne; Art Gallery of Ballarat, Vic; Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic; Southern Downs Regional Art Collection, Stanthorpe, Qld; Glasshouse Regional Gallery, Port Macquarie, NSW; Ceramics Victoria Permanent Collection, Vic; Brisbane Grammar School Art Collection, Brisbane; The Russell Berrie Foundation, Teaneck, USA; The Charles Bronfman Collection, Teaneck, USA ; Museo del Cántir, Argenton, Spain; Bendigo Art Gallery, Vic

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