

PRUE VENABLES

Prue Venables has established a national and international reputation as one of Australia's leading contemporary ceramic artists. Motivated by a particular interest in functional objects and a search for simplicity, quietness and an essential stillness, Prue makes objects that are pared back, serene and deceptively simple. These beautiful porcelain objects disguise the laborious making process involved. As Prue explains, "I enjoy the contradictory nature of the pieces, where the sprung tension of the throwing remains clear, but the origins of forms are uncertain. Risks are high but failure only motivates me to try again". In this work, the technical expertise, invention and a diversity of references gently recede, allowing forms to stand innocently and for details of and for their inter-relationships and gestural suggestions to flourish. Through her work, Prue explores a multitude of references, ranging from musical harmonies and spaces through to functional objects. 19th Century industrial English pottery and contemporary metal and plastic objects are of particular interest. Her graceful forms are made to be used and handled but also embody sculptural and spacial interactions to reflect musical rhythm and even a quiet pause for breath. In 2018, Prue was selected as the Australian Design Centre's 9th Living Treasure.

Prue Venables was born in England but grew up in Australia before returning to England in 1977 to study ceramics at the renowned Harrow School of Art. After teaching and practicing ceramics in the UK for 12 years, Prue returned to Australia in 1989 and has continued to exhibit widely in Australia, Japan, Europe, Asia and the USA. She has won many awards for her work, including the Premier Award in the 1995 Fletcher Challenge, 2nd prize in the Hermanns Art Award in 2001, and three honourable mentions at the Mino International Ceramics Competition in Japan. Prue's work is in many significant collections including the National Gallery of Australia, Fuping Museum (China), Auckland Museum and Gallery (New Zealand) and the state galleries of Queensland, Northern Territory, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1954 Born England, educated Melbourne
- 1971-74 BSc (Hons) Zoology, Melbourne University
- 1977-81 Assistant to Susan Bennett (potter), London, UK
Assistant to Wendy Bainbridge (potter), London, UK
- 1977-89 ILEA Pottery Classes: North Staffordshire Polytechnic and Central School of Art and Design, London, UK
- 1981-83 Harrow Diploma of Studio Pottery, Harrow College of Art, London, UK
- 1982-84 Assistant to Daphne Carnegie (potter), London, UK
- 1983-86 Studio in Kings Cross, London, UK
- 1984-89 Guest Lecturer, Harrow College of Higher Education, London, UK
- 1985-89 Gallery assistant, Contemporary Applied Arts, London, UK
- 1986-89 Studio in Stoke Newington, London, UK
- 1988 ACSET 1, Teacher training, London, UK
- 1989 Established own studio, Melbourne
- 1989-93 Teacher in Ceramics, School of Mines and Industries, Ballarat
Visiting Lecturer, Ceramics, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University (RMIT); Ceramics Summer School, RMIT; Melbourne University
- 1993-96 Lecturer, Ceramics, Education, Melbourne University
Lecturer, Ceramics, RMIT, Melbourne
- 1995 MA, Fine Art, Ceramics, RMIT, Melbourne
- 1998 "The Persuasive Object" workshop, Unitec, Auckland, NZ
- 2002 Lecturer, Monash University Ceramics
- 2003 Guest Lecturer at Konstfack – School of Art and Design, Stockholm, Sweden
Guest Lecturer, University of Westminster, London, UK
Guest Lecturer, Royal College of Art, London, UK
Guest Lecturer, Bath University, London, UK
Guest Lecturer, Guldagergaard Ceramics Centre, Denmark
- 2006 -07 Ceramics Coordinator, Senior Lecturer, RMIT University, Melbourne
Guest Lecturer, Royal College of Art, London
Guest Lecturer, Konkuk University, Seoul, Korea
Elected member, International Academy of Ceramics
- 2007 President Craft Victoria
- 2008 Lecturer and workshop leader, Seminar and Workshop of International Cultural Creative Industry - Craft, Material and Innovation, National University of Arts, Taiwan
Lecturer and tutor, Graduate Institute of Applied Arts, Tainan National College of the Arts Tainan, Taiwan
- 2010 Creative Director, Ceramics studio, Jam Factory, Adelaide

- 2011 Keynote speaker, Ceramics Festival, Alice Springs, NT
- 2012 Presenter, National Ceramics Conference, Adelaide
Arts SA Residency award Jingdezhen, China
Pottery workshop, Jingdezhen, China
- 2013 Pottery workshop, Jingdezhen, China
- 2014 Artist residency at Dunmoochin, Melbourne
- 2019 Presenter, Ceramics Triennale, Hobart

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 "Quiet echoes, a pause for breath", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2012 National Gallery of Victoria, Federation Square, Melbourne
Ann Linnemann Studio Gallery, Copenhagen
- 2010 Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne
- 2007 Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
- 2005 Galerie Besson, London, UK
Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
- 2003 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 2002 Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, USA
Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2001 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
Oxford Gallery, Oxford, UK
- 1999 Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, USA
- 1998 Masterworks Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
Alpha House Gallery, Dorset, UK
- 1997 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
- 1996 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Studio COM, Kyoto, Japan
- 1995 Craft Victoria, Melbourne
- 1993 Jam Factory Gallery, Adelaide
- 1989 Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 "Porcelain", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2017 "100 cups", National Museum of Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, China
"STILL: Australian Still Life Award", Coffs Harbour, NSW
Officine Saffi, Milan, Italy
"New porcelain" (with Kenji Uranishi and Keiko Matsui), Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Skepsi Gallery, Montsalvat
- 2016 "Dark Forms", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2015 "CHOICE", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Welcome to Table", Castlemaine Festival
"Of National Significance", Sturt Craft Centre, Mittagong NSW
"The Useful Set", Stephen McLachlan Gallery, Melbourne
Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Domestic bliss", Deakin University Art Gallery, VIC
"Important exhibition of Australian Ceramics", Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne
Finalist, Officine Saffi Project, Open to Art, Milan, Italy
"The Course of Objects", TACA, Manly Gallery, Sydney
"Quiet Conversations" Skepsi @ Montsalvat, Skepsi on Swanston, Victoria
"Melbourne Now", National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 2013 "The collectors", Art Gallery of South Australia
- 2012 "Emerging Form - Exemplary Australian Ceramics", Skepsi Gallery, Melbourne
"Tradition and Innovation: 50 years of Harrow", Contemporary Applied Arts, London
"Then and now", Whitehouse Arts Space, Melbourne
Ceramics studio exhibition, JamFactory, SA
BMG Gallery, Adelaide
- 2011 Alcorso Ceramics Competition, Hobart

- 2010 Ann Linnemann studio gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
Taiwan Ceramics Biennale, Yingge Ceramics Museum, Taiwan
"Teawares", Jam Factory, Adelaide
- 2009 "Pots of Light", Galerie Besson, London, UK
"Sustain Me: contemporary design", Ivan Dougherty Gallery, NSW
Jingdezhen International Ceramics Fair, China
- 2008 "Important drawings, prints and ceramics", Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
"Freestyle", Triennale di Milano, Italy
"Porcelain", Jam Factory, Adelaide
"Porcelain in Contemporary Discourse", Shanghai, China
- 2007 4th World Ceramic Biennale 2007, Korea
"Freestyle", Object, Sydney; Brisbane; Adelaide
Artistic Insights, Celebrating 100 years of tertiary art education in Ballarat
Jewish Museum, Melbourne
"The Cup Show", All Hand Made, Sydney
"The Jug Show", All Hand Made, Sydney
"Smartworks, Design and the Handmade", Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
- 2006 Collect, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
"Freestyle", Melbourne Museum, Melbourne
"Madonna del Rosario", Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong
"Classic and Contemporary Ceramics", Galerie Besson, London
"30th Anniversary Exhibition", Rex Irwin Fine Art, Sydney
SOFA, Chicago, USA (Galerie Besson)
- 2005 Hobart Art Prize
"Table Manners Contemporary International Ceramics", Crafts Council, London
"Three makers in Porcelain" (with Patsy Hely and Neville French), Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Small is Beautiful", Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Hobart Art Prize
"100 Ringe; an exhibition of cast silver rings", Craft Victoria, Victoria
"Ceramics 2005", Freeman Gallery, Hobart
- 2004 "Heresy: The secret language of materials", Craft Victoria
"Still life", Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland, NZ
"Still life still lives", Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
"Tactile Art", Object Gallery, Sydney
Jan Ken Pon World Design Competition, Gifu City, Japan
- 2003 "Future Function", Manly Art Gallery, Sydney
"World Ceramic Exhibition", Stenlinge Slott Castle, Sweden
"Important Works on Paper and Important Ceramics", Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
- 2002 "Ritual of Tea", Jam Factory, Adelaide
"Less is more - ceramics with a minimal aesthetic", Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, USA
SOFA, Chicago, USA
- 2001 Hermann Award, Sherman Galleries, Sydney
International Ceramics Exhibition, Alpha House Gallery, Dorset, UK
Contemporary Applied Arts, London, UK
Barrett Marsden Gallery, London, UK
"Colonial to Contemporary", Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
- 2000 Australian Ceramics - Hong Kong Arts Centre
19th National Craft Acquisition Award, Northern Territory
Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
Australian Ceramicists at the Gallery Marianne Heller, Heidelberg, Germany
"International Infusion", Sybaris Gallery, Michigan, USA
"International Ceramics Selection", Steninge Slott Kulturecentre, Germany
Beverly Hills International Art Fair, USA
The International Fine Art Show, New York, USA
Grosvenor House Art and Antiques Fair, London, UK
20th Century at Olympia, London, UK
The International Asian Art Fair, New York, USA
Palm Beach International Art Fair, USA

- 1999 Michael Goedhuis at International 20th Century Art Fair, New York
"Contemporary Australian Craft to Japan", Powerhouse Museum touring exhibition, Japan and Australia
"Contemporary Australian Porcelain", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
25th Alice Craft Acquisition, Northern Territory
Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Japan
SOFA 99, New York, USA
Materiality - Spare Room, RMIT University, Melbourne
Purple Space - Jam Factory, Adelaide
International Porcelain, Strasbourg, France
Artistic Australia - Grand Hyatt Hotel, Tsukamoto and Etoh stores, Fukuoka; Mitsukoshi, Tokyo; Kadoya, Nishio; Anshindo Store, Shizuoka; Japan
Hobart Art Prize
Barrett Marsden Gallery, London, UK
- 1998 Aurora, Vietnam
Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, Auckland, New Zealand
Aurora, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
RMIT Staff exhibition, Hong Kong Arts Centre
Triennale de la Porcelaine Nyon, Switzerland
"Southern Light", SOFA, Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
ACAF, Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 1997 "Australische Keramik", Galerie Handwerk, Munich, Germany
"Australische Keramik", Kunstgewerbemuseum, Dresden, Germany
Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, Auckland, New Zealand
Alice Craft Acquisition Award, Alice Springs, NT
Savode Gallery, Brisbane
- 1996-98 "Aurora" travelling exhibition: Seoul Arts Centre, Korea; Karachi and Islamabad, Pakistan; Dakka, Bangladesh; Vietnam; Melbourne
- 1996 Australia Day Exhibition, Shepparton Art Gallery
"Vessel: contemporary Australian ceramics", Canberra School of Art
Savode Gallery, Brisbane
Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, Auckland, New Zealand
"Stillness", Craft ACT, Canberra
"Postpack", Canberra School of Art; Alpha House Gallery, Dorset, UK
- 1995 "The Bowl", Savode Gallery, Brisbane
Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, Auckland, New Zealand
15th National Craft Acquisition Award, Alice Springs, NT
Mino International Ceramics Festival, Mino, Japan
Bathurst Art Purchase, NSW
Nillumbick Art Award
Australian Decorative Arts Survey, Lauraine Diggins, Melbourne
- 1994 "Playing with Fire", Mornington Peninsula Arts Centre, Vic
American Craft Collectors Circle Exhibition, Ether Ohnetetel Gallery, Melbourne
Cicely and Colin Rigg Award, National Gallery of Victoria
"The Bowled and the Beautiful", The Door Exhibition Space, Perth
"Contemporary Applied Arts", London, UK
- 1992 "Contemporary Applied Arts", London Summer Show, UK
Jennings Award, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
"The Market, Kitch and Cultural Production", Craft Victoria
Mino International Ceramics Festival, Mino, Japan
- 1991 Australia Day Exhibition, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
"Tantalising Tea Cups", Blaxland Gallery
"ASPECTS", RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
- 1989 Galerie Kapelhuis, Amersfoort, the Netherlands
- 1984-89 Numerous group exhibitions while in the UK: Seven Dials Gallery, London; Royal Festival Hall, London; Direct Design Show, London; British Crafts Centre; Nexus Gallery, Brighton; The Tent, Edinburgh Festival; "Creative Eye", London Crafts Council; Judd Street Gallery, London; "The Harrow Connection" - England, Scotland and Ireland

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2018 9th Living Treasure, Master of Australian Craft, Australian Design Centre
Finalist, Gyeonggi International ceramics Biennale, Korea
Australia Council Development Grant
- 2017 Finalist, Officine Saffi, Milan, Italy
Finalist & Judges Commendation, "STILL: Australian Still Life Award", Coffs Harbour, NSW
- 2016 Grant, Australia Council Development Grant
- 2015 Winner, 2015 Clunes Ceramic Award
- 2014 Finalist, Officine Saffi Project, Open to Art, Milan, Italy
- 2011 Australia Council Skills and Arts Development Grant
- 2009 Grant, Arts Victoria, to attend exhibitions in Taiwan and Denmark
- 2008 Grant, Australia Council, for new work
- 2007 Honourable Mention WOCEF, Korea
- 2006 Fellow Royal Society of Arts, UK
- 2004 One month residency at Oribe Design Centre to design a dinner set for production by Yamai China Co. and Yamama China Co., Japan
Grant, Object, to act as mentor to Robyn Seale
- 2003 Third Prize, Jan Ken Pon World Design Competition, Gifu City, Japan
- 2002 Three honourable mentions at the Mino International Ceramics competition, Japan
- 2001 Hermanns Art Award, second prize
- 1999 Australian Council funding to attend Ceramics Millenium Conference in Amsterdam
Australia Council Project Grant, New York
- 1997 Alice Craft Acquisition Award, Alice Springs, NT
Townsville Ceramics Acquisition, Queensland
- 1996 Project Grant, Australia Council
Grant, Arts Victoria (Arts 21 International Export and Touring Program)
- 1995 Bathurst Art Purchase Award, Bathurst NSW
Premier Award, Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, NZ
Honourable Mention, International Ceramics Competition, Mino, Japan
15th National Craft Award, Northern Territory
James Cook University Ceramics Award, Queensland
- 1994 Second Prize, Austceram Ceramic Art Award, Sydney
Project Grant, Australia Council
- 1992 Two Honourable Mentions, International Ceramics Competition, Mino, Japan
- 1989 First Prize, Cup competition, Arts and Crafts Society of Victoria
- 1988 Photography Grant, Crafts Council, UK,
- 1986 Product of the Show, Direct Design Show, London
- 1984-85 Grant, Crafts Council, UK,
- 1981-83 Grant, Professional Classes Aid Council
Windsor and Newton Art Prize

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 "Porcelain master pushes the limits", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 12 September
"Ceramic artist breaks out of boundaries", Meredith Hinchliffe, *Citynews.com.au*, 7 September
"Engrossing exhibition of fine porcelain", Meredith Hinchliffe, *Citynews.com.au*, 3 June
- 2019 Living Treasures, Masters of Australian Craft – Prue Venables
- 2015 "Linkages and Cultural Diversity in International Ceramics", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, July 18
- 2011 *The Pot Book*, Edmund deWaal, Phaidon
- 2008 *Functional Pottery*, Robin Hooper, Karause Publishing
- 2004 *Shards - Garth Clark on Ceramic Art*, Garth Clark
- 2003 *Contemporary Porcelain*, Peter Lane, Craftsman House
- 1999 *Design Sourcebook - Ceramics*, Edmund deWaal, New Holland
- 1998 *Ceramic Review*, May/June, article by Alison Britton
Southern Light: contemporary Australian porcelain, Beaver Galleries
- 1997 *Masters of their Craft*, Dr Noris Ioannou, Craftsman House
"Exhibition of New Work at Studio COM, Kyoto", *Craft Victoria Bulletin*, No. 1
- 1996 "Neutral ground", Annemarie Kiely, *Belle* magazine, Feb-March
"A quiet journey to centre stage", Helen Musa, *The Canberra Times*, 14 May

- 1995 "Pared-down pots with strength", Meredith Hinchliffe, *The Canberra Times*, 28 May
Contemporary Porcelain, Peter Lane, Craftsman House
"Transcending place and time", Kevin White, and "Fletcher Challenge Award 1995", *Pottery in Australia*, Vol. 34/3
"Throwing and joining porcelain", Karen Weiss, *Pottery in Australia*, Vol. 35/3
"Just squeeze the clay", and "Life and Structure", Alison Britton, *Ceramics: Art and Perception*, No. 21
"Prue Venables - recent ceramics", *Craft Victoria*, Spring

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth; Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; Deakin University, Vic; James Cook University, Qld; Queensland University of Technology; RMIT University, Melbourne; University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Qld; Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Bendigo Art Gallery, Vic; Craft Council of the Northern Territory, Darwin; Newcastle Art Gallery, NSW; Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville, Qld; Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic; Hermanns Art Award Collection; Fuping Museum, China; Auckland Museum and Gallery, New Zealand; Fletcher Challenge Collection, New Zealand; Hamilton Art Gallery, New Zealand; Museum of Fine Art, Houston, Texas, USA