

KEVIN WHITE

Kevin White is one of the most eminent ceramic artists working in Australia and is highly regarded internationally as a scholar in his medium. His porcelain vessels and their contemporary embellishment take inspiration from the elegance and technical skill of the East Asian ceramic tradition. These arrestingly beautiful forms feature evocative hand-painted decoration with geometric planes of colour, lustrous gold finishes and intimate decal patterning. Kevin has also incorporated, in his most recent work, larger sweeping brushstrokes that pay homage to his experience living and working in China and Japan. His distinct signature of interpretation is clear, giving new life to the ceramic traditions and refracting ideas of Japonisme seen in British ceramics of the 19th century.

Kevin was born in England in 1954 and arrived in Australia in 1985 upon completion of his post-graduate studies at the Royal College of Art in London. In 1978, he was awarded a scholarship by the Japanese Ministry of Education for research into ceramics in Japan. He lived and worked there until 1983, spending much of his time working in the studio of Satoshi Sato in Kyoto who was a member of the avant-garde ceramic group, Sodeisha. He is currently Associate Professor and Deputy Head of International Development at RMIT University, Melbourne. Kevin has participated in many solo and group exhibitions around Australia and overseas, and received a number of nationally and internationally recognised awards. His work is held in collections throughout the world, including the National Gallery of Australia, Parliament House, Powerhouse Museum, National Gallery of Victoria, Royal College of Art (UK), Tachikichi Corporation (Japan) and the Gifu Prefectural Ceramic Museum (Japan).

BIOGRAPHY

- 1954 Born in Reading, England
- 1973-74 West Surrey College of Art and Design, Foundation Course
- 1974-77 Bachelor of Fine Art with Honours at Leeds Polytechnic
- 1979 Osaka University of Foreign Language Studies
- 1979-80 Ceramics research student at Kyoto City University of Fine Arts, Japan
- 1980-83 Worked in the studio of Satoshi Sato, Kyoto, Japan
- 1983-85 Master of Arts, Royal College of Art, London, UK
- 1985 Migrated to Australia
- 1986 Lecturer in Ceramics, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
- 1987 Lecturer in Ceramics, West Australian College of Advanced Education
- 1988 Design Consultant, Leonards Bridge Pottery, Melbourne
Lecturer in Ceramics, RMIT
Guest Speaker, Fifth National Ceramics Conference, Sydney
- 1990 Guest lecturer, University of Tasmania Centre for the Arts
- 1992 Appointed Senior Lecturer in Ceramics, Department of Fine Art, RMIT
- 1994 Appointed Course Co-ordinator and Senior Lecturer in Ceramics, Department of Fine Art, RMIT
- 2000 Appointed Associate Professor, School of Art, RMIT
Appointed co-ordinator of Ceramics and Glass and Program Manager for BA Fine Art program, Hong Kong
- 2005 Granted Australian Citizenship
- 2006 Guest lecturer, Contemporary Australian Ceramics, East China Normal University, Shanghai
Guest lecturer, Contemporary Australian Ceramics, Jingdezhen Pottery workshop, China
- 2007 Appointed Program Director, BA Fine Art and BA Fine Art (Hons), Melbourne and Hong Kong
- 2009 Appointed Deputy Head - International Development, School of Art, RMIT
Artist in Residence, Department of Philosophy, Lingnan University, Hong Kong
- 2015 Appointed Higher Degrees by Research Coordinator, School of Art, RMIT
- 2016 Appointed Adjunct Professor, School of Art, RMIT

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 "Vessel – A Voyage", La Trobe Regional Gallery, Vic
- 2015 Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2011 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
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- 2009 Lingnan University, Hong Kong
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1998 Beaver Galleries, Canberra
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Jam Factory Craft and Design Centre, Adelaide
1994 Craft Victoria, Melbourne
1991 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1989 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1986 Playhouse Gallery, Leeds, UK
1985 Museum of Mankind, London, UK
1982 Gallery Maronnier, Kyoto, Japan

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Collectible Art Fair, Pao Galleries, Hong Kong Arts Centre, HK
"Throughlines", Barn Gallery, Montsalvat, Melbourne
Kevin White and Max Lawrence White, Stephen McLaughlan Gallery, Melbourne
2022 "Flux", Residents Gallery, Montsalvat, Melbourne
2020 PORCELAIN, Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2016 "Identity – Contemporary Australian Ceramics", Skepsi Gallery, Melbourne
"Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2015 Kevin White & Marianne Huhn, Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2014 "Still Firing at 45", Whitehorse Artspace, Melbourne
"The Museum of Abject Sentimentality", RMIT School of Art Gallery, Melbourne
25th Anniversary exhibition, Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2013 "Expressions of Self", Skepsi on Swanston at Monsalvat, Melbourne
Crawling through Mud: Australian Ceramics and the Japanese Tradition, Shepparton Art Museum, Vic
2012 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Engaging Form - Exemplary Australian Ceramics", Melbourne
2011 "Tooth and Nail - Cross Cultural Influences in Contemporary Ceramics", Museum of Chinese and Australian History, Melbourne
2009 "Twentieth Anniversary", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
"Bravura: 21st Century Australian Craft and Design", Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
SOFA, Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
2008 "From the earth", Deakin University and Whitehorse Art Space, Melbourne
"New horizons", Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong
2007 "Abstraction", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
"Naked", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
"Treasures 2007", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2006 "Connected", Craft Victoria, Melbourne
2005 "Light Matters", Skepsi Gallery, Melbourne
2004 "Vessel: Diverse", Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
"Encore", Skepsi Gallery, Melbourne
"Celebrating the Master II", Skepsi Gallery, Melbourne
2003 "The Second Wave - Contemporary Australian Ceramics inspired by the Orient", FoGuang Yuan Art Gallery, Melbourne
"Fifty Years of Australian Ceramics" curated by Gillian McCracken, Newcastle City Art Gallery, NSW
2001 "Works by staff at the Art School", Hong Kong Arts Centre
2000 "Contemporary Australian Ceramics" curated by Kevin White, Fringe Pottery Workshop, Hong Kong
"New Work in Porcelain" Sturt Galleries, Mittagong, NSW
"Colonial to Contemporary", Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
1999 Exhibition in conjunction with the 9th National Ceramics Conference, Perth Galleries
1998 "Aurora: Australian wood, metal, glass, fibre and ceramics", Storey Hall Gallery, RMIT
RMIT Staff and Students, Hong Kong Arts Centre
"Southern Light", SOFA 98, Chicago, USA - Beaver Galleries
1997 "Accrochage", Gallery b15, Munich, Germany
"Porcelain 2", Loes and Reinier International Ceramics, Deventer, Netherlands
"Bowled Over", Savode Gallery, Brisbane
Contemporary Art Fair, Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra (Beaver Galleries)

- "Australische Keramik", Galerie Handwerk, Munich, Germany
"Australische Keramik", Kunstgewerbemuseum, Dresden, Germany
"The Contemporary Teapot", Keramikmuseet Grimmerhus, Denmark
"The Collection: recent acquisitions", Art Gallery of Western Australia
Tajimi City Pottery Design and Technical Centre, Japan
1996 Fifth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne - Beaver Galleries
"Director's Choice", Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne
Australia Day Ceramics Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
"Vessel: contemporary Australian ceramics", Australian National University, Canberra
"Aurora: Australian wood, metal, glass, fibre and ceramics", Seoul Arts Centre, Korea
1995 "Australian Decorative Arts Survey", Lauraine Diggins Gallery, Melbourne
Works by RMIT staff, Australian High Commission, Singapore
1994 "Playing with Fire", Mornington Peninsula Arts Centre, Vic
American Craft Collectors Circle Exhibition, Ether Ohnetetel Gallery, Melbourne
Cecily and Colin Rigg Craft Award, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
"The Bowled and the Beautiful", The Door Exhibition Space, Fremantle, WA
1993 Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, Auckland, New Zealand
1992 "Multiples", Craft Victoria, Melbourne
Mornington Peninsula Craft Award, Mornington Peninsula Arts Centre, Vic
1991 Myer Bicentennial Tableware Collection, Victorian Ceramic Group
"Aspects: vessels by 15 contemporary ceramicists", RMIT University, Melbourne
"An Australian Willow Pattern", Jam Factory Craft & Design Centre, Adelaide
Australia Day Ceramics Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1990 "Australian Crafts 1990", Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
1989 "Tachibana-ten", organised by Tachikichi Corporation, Kyoto and Tokyo, Japan.
1987 Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
Craft Centre and Design Gallery, Leeds, UK
1985 Hawksworth Gallery, Leeds, UK
1984 Royal Overseas League, London, UK
1981 Gallery Maki, Tokyo, Japan
1980 Gallery Soiree, Kyoto, Japan
Gallery Shino, Osaka, Japan

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2006 Australia-China Council grant to undertake ceramic research in Shanghai and Jingdezhen, China
1999 Australia Council grant to assist in attending the Ceramics Millenia Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands
1995 Ceramic Purchase Award, Newcastle Regional Art Gallery, NSW
Acquisition, 15th National Craft Acquisition Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
1994 Professional Development Grant, Australia Council
1992 Third International Ceramics Competition (two honourable mentions), Mino, Japan
1990 Professional Development Grant, Australia Council
Diamond Valley Art Award, highly commended
Fishers Ghost Ceramic Prize, Joint First Prize, Campbelltown City Art Gallery, NSW
1978-80 Japanese Ministry of Education (Monbusho) scholarship for post-graduate research in ceramics in Japan

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2011 Artist Profile, *Art Almanac*, October
2008 "A skilled hand and cultivated mind - A guide to the Architecture and Art of RMIT University", Harriet Edquist and Elizabeth Grierson, RMIT Publishing
2007 "Finding hidden depths in complex ceramics", Meredith Hinchcliffe, *Canberra Times*, 9 November
2004 *Celebrating the Master II*, Skepsi Gallery, Melbourne
Developing the Collection - Acquisitions 2001-2004, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
2002 *Ceramic Surface Decoration: contemporary approaches and techniques*, Matthias Ostermann
1999 "The New Stone Age", Domain, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 August
1998 *Southern Light - contemporary Australian porcelain*, Beaver Galleries & Narek Gallery, Canberra
"RMIT Fine Art at the Hong Kong Arts Centre", *Sing Dao newspaper*, 29 September

- 1997 *Masters of their Craft*, DrNorisIoannou, *Craftsman House*
Craft, Vol. 27, No. 234/1
"Museum Collections- What's New?", *Object*, Vol. 1
- 1996 *Vessel*, Peter Haynes, Canberra School of Art Gallery
Catalogue, Fifth Australian Contemporary Art Fair
"Kevin White's Expressive Porcelain", Grace Cochrane, *Ceramics Art and Perception*, Issue 25
Aurora, Asialink Centre, Melbourne
"The Newcastle Awards", Helen Stephens, *Ceramics: Art and Perception*, Issue 24
"Working in Porcelain", *Pottery in Australia*, vol.35. no.3, Spring
- 1995 "Kevin White - Ceramics", exhibition catalogue, Beaver Galleries, Canberra, text by Grace Cochrane
The Object All Sublime, Kenneth Hood, Australian Decorative Arts Survey 1995, Lauraine Diggins Gallery, Malakoff Fine Arts Press, Melbourne
Contemporary Porcelain: Materials, Techniques and Expressions, Peter Lane, Craftsman House
Contemporary Ceramic Art in Australia & New Zealand, Janet Mansfield, Craftsman House
- 1994 "What can I do with it", Peter Timms, *Ceramics: Art and Perception*, Issue 17
The Age, 8 March & 26 May
Art Monthly Australia, No. 73
Catalogue, Cecily and Colin Rigg Craft Award
The Bulletin, 13 September
The West Australian, 3 August
Contemporary ceramic art in Australia and New Zealand, Janet Mansfield, Craftsman House
- 1993 *Pottery in Australia*, Tableware Edition
Catalogue, Third International Ceramics Competition, Mino, Japan
"Artefact and Artifice", *Craft Victoria*, October
- 1992 *Art file: catalogue of Australian Artists and Designers*, Craft Arts International
An illustrated dictionary of practical pottery, Robert Fournier
- 1991 *Craft Victoria*, Vol.2, No. 207
Aspects, essay by Peter Timms, exhibition catalogue
- 1990 *Craft Arts*, No. 3-6
Pottery in Australia, Vol. 28, No.4
- 1989 *Craft Victoria*, No. 11-12
Craft Arts International, No. 15
- 1988 *Potters '88*, Potters Society of Australia
Pottery in Australia, Vol. 27, No.4
"What's Happening to Tableware", *Yomiuri Newspaper*, Japan
- 1985 "High Flyers at the RCA", *Vogue*, London
- 1982 "New Artists and Designers", *Tra*, Tokyo

REPRESENTED

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth; Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin; Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; Parliament House, Canberra; Government House, Canberra; RMIT University, Melbourne; Deakin University, Vic; Curtin University, Perth; Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic; Geelong City Art Gallery, Vic; Newcastle Region Art Gallery, NSW; Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW; Hamilton Art Gallery, Vic; City of Whitehorse Collection, Vic; Myer Bicentennial Tableware Collection, Vic; Crown Casino, Melbourne; Leeuwin Estate, WA; Margaret Lawrence Collection, Victorian College of the Arts; Gifu Prefectural Ceramic Museum, Gifu, Japan; Tachikichi Corporation, Japan; Lingnan University; Hong Kong; Royal College of Art, London, UK