

STEPHEN BENWELL

Born in Melbourne in 1953, Stephen Benwell is one of Australia's most distinguished ceramicists. He received a Diploma of Art from the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne in 1974, a Diploma of Education from the Melbourne State College in 1976 and received a MFA from Monash University in 2005. He has travelled extensively and undertook a studio residency at the Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris in 1984–1985. His work is regularly exhibited in Australia and overseas and is held in a large number of private and public collections.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 *Walking to Oracles: New Paintings and Ceramics*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2010 *New Ceramics*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2007 *Recent Works*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2005 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
The Impassioned Shepherd, The Faculty Gallery, Monash University, Melbourne
- 2002 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2001 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1998 George Gallery, Melbourne
- 1997 George Gallery, Melbourne
- 1996 Craftspace, Sydney
- 1995 Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 1993 Craft Victoria, Melbourne
- 1992 Gallery TAO, Tokyo, Japan
Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1991 Garry Anderson Gallery, Sydney
Powell Street Graphics, Melbourne
- 1990 Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1988 Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
- 1987 Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
- 1986 Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston
Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1985 Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
- 1984 Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
- 1983 Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne
- 1982 Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne
- 1981 Crafts Council Gallery, Sydney
Profile Gallery, Melbourne
- 1980 Jam Factory, Adelaide
- 1979 Craft Centre, Melbourne
- 1977 Craft Centre, Melbourne
- 1975 Craft Centre, Melbourne

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 *Blue Chip XIV: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2011 *Blue Chip XIII: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2010 *Muster: A Round Up of Works from the Stockroom*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Award Finalists' Exhibition, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
Hobart Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Fletcher Jones Art Prize Finalists' Exhibition, Geelong Gallery, Victoria
Bravura: 21st Century Australian Craft, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 2009 *Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award Finalists' Exhibition*,

Deakin University Art Gallery, Melbourne
Auckland Art Fair, New Zealand

2008 *Australian Ceramic Stories*, Dubbo Regional Gallery, New South Wales

2006 *Surface Connections*, Manningham Gallery, Victoria
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
A Secret History of Blue and White, Vietnam Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi and touring
Australian Contemporary, SOFA, Navy Pier, Chicago
Australian Glass and Ceramic Artists, Galerie Ursula Rosenhauer, Goettingen, Germany
Crust: Examining Artist's Approaches to Clay Surfaces, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Queensland and touring

2005 Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney

2004 Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney
Sidney Myer International Ceramic Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
The Victorian Connection, Ceramic Art Gallery, Sydney

2003 *Changing Surfaces*, Shepparton Art Gallery, Shepparton, Victoria
Hyper-crafting, Faculty Gallery, Faculty of Art & Design, Monash University, Melbourne

2002 *Melbourne Art Fair*, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne

2000-01 *Craft from Scratch: 8th Triennale (Australia and Germany)*, Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt; Customs House, Sydney; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

1999 *Drawn in Form*, Brisbane City Art Gallery, Brisbane
Sidney Myer International Ceramic Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria

1996 *Sidney Myer Award*, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria

1995 *Fletcher Challenge Award*, Auckland
Australian Art 1940-1990, Museum of Fine Arts, GIFU
Delinquent Angel, Faenza, Italy
Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria

1994 *The Art of the Object*, Craft Australia, Sydney
The Rigg Award, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria

1993 *Sidney Myer Award*, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria

1992 *The National Craft Award*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
The Ninth R.M Ansett Art Award, Hamilton Art Gallery, Tasmania
The Market, Kitsch and Cultural Production, Craft Victoria, Melbourne
Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria

1991 *The Woven Language*, Victorian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne

1990 *Stephen Benwell and David Potter: Survey Exhibition*, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria and National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

1989 *Creating Australia*, Queensland Art Gallery and touring nationally
Perth Crafts Triennial, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
Australian Decorative Arts 1985-1988, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

1987 *Ceramic Showpieces from the Permanent Collection*, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria

1985 *Quatre Artistes Australiens*, Australian Embassy, Paris

1984 *Australian Decorative Arts: The Past Ten Years*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Mayfair Ceramic Award, Meatmarket Craft Centre, Melbourne

1982 *Fletcher Brownbuilt Pottery Award*, Auckland
Canberra Festival Art Prize

1980 *Recent ceramics*, Europe
Third Mayfair Ceramic Award, Meatmarket Craft Centre, Melbourne

1978 *Australian Clay*, Canada, U.S.A
Second Mayfair Ceramic Award, Meatmarket Craft Centre, Melbourne

1977 *35th Concorso Internazionale Delle Ceramic D'Arte*, Faenza, Italy

1976 *Wood and Clay*, Australia and New Zealand

1975 *Craft Victoria '75*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

2010	Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Award, Shepparton Art Gallery
2009	Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award Australia Council Visual Arts Board New Work Grant
2003-2007	Monash Graduate Scholarship
1999	Friends of Shepparton Art Gallery Award
1998	Australia Council Grant
1996	Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery
1995	Bathurst Art Purchase Award Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery
1994	Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery
1993	Fellowship Award, Australia Council
1992	Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery
1990	Gold Coast City Art Gallery Art Award
1989	Victorian Tapestry Workshop commission
1988	Melbourne City Council commission St Kilda Art Acquisition Award
1987	Box Hill Art Award Australia Council Grant
1984	Australia Council Grant
1983	Australia Council Grant
1982	Australian National Gallery commission
1981	Diamond Valley Art Award Canberra Festival Craft Prize
1980	Australia Council Grant Mayfair Ceramic Award
1976	Australia Council Grant

ARTIST'S TALKS

2010	Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Award Master Class, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria 27 th Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award
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COLLECTIONS

Artbank, Sydney
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Victoria
Box Hill City Council, Melbourne
City Art Institute, Sydney
Geelong Art Gallery, Victoria
Latrobe Regional Art Gallery, Victoria
Melbourne University, Victoria
Melbourne State College, Victoria
Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Newcastle City Art Gallery, New South Wales
Phillip Morris Collection, Sydney
Parliament House, Canberra
Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
Queen Victoria Hospital, Melbourne
Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston, Tasmania
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane

Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
St Kilda City Council, Melbourne
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Victorian Ministry of the Arts, Melbourne

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS/CATALOGUES

Blue Chip XIV: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, 2012
Blue Chip XIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, 2011
Danny Lacy, 'Stephen Benwell: The Significance of Rubble', *2010 Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Award*, exhibition catalogue, Shepparton Art Gallery, 2010
Stephen Benwell: New Ceramics, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2010
Dr. Julia Jones, 'Australian Ceramic Stories', *Australian Ceramic Stories*, exhibition catalogue, Dubbo Regional Gallery, NSW, 2008
Luke Morgan, 'Sighing over ruins: Stephen Benwell', *Stephen Benwell Recent Works*, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2007
Craft from Scratch: 8th Triennale (Australia and Germany), Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, 2000
Christopher Menz, *Australian Decorative Arts: 1820s–1990s*, Art Gallery Board of South Australia, Adelaide, 1997
Stephen Rainbird, 'Selected Australian Works', *Queensland University of Technology Art Collection*, 1995
Grace Cochrane, *The Crafts Movement in Australia: A History*, NSW University Press, Sydney, 1992
Joe Pascoe, *Stephen Benwell and David Potter: Survey Exhibition*, Shepparton Art Gallery, 1989
Daniel Thomas ed., *Creating Australia 200 Years of Art: 1788 – 1988*, International Cultural Corporation of Australia, Art Gallery Board of South Australia, 1988
John McPhee, *Australian Decorative Arts in the Australian National Gallery*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 1982

ARTICLES/REVIEWS

John McPhee, 'Collection: Recent Works by Stephen Benwell', *Artist Profile*, Issue 13, 2010
Robert Nelson, 'The dated and discredited brought back with a twist', *The Age*, 28 March 2010
Margot Osborne, 'Bravura: 21st Century Australian Craft', *Art Monthly Australia*, Issue 227, March 2010
Courtney Kidd, 'A disciplined eye', *Australian Art Collector*, Issue 47, January – March 2009
Megan Backhouse, 'Art around the galleries: Stephen Benwell', *The Age A2*, 17 November 2007
Robert Nelson, 'Arcadia all on the surface', *The Age*, 6 July 2005
Roger Taylor, 'The dynamic of the vessel', *World Sculpture News*, Vol. 8, No. 3, Summer 2002
Barbara Wels, 'Stephen Benwell – Niagara Galleries', *Craft*, Vol. 32 No. 241, 2001
Bronwyn Watson, 'Deutsche mark', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 May 2001, p. 8
Chris Sanders, 'Stephen Benwell – within the tradition of vessel making', *Ceramic Art and Perception*, No. 27, 1997
Chris Sanders, 'Stephen Benwell', *Pottery in Australia*, Vol. 34, No. 4, 1995
Alec Selenitsch, 'Stephen Benwell – recent ceramics', *Craft Victoria*, Spring, 1994
Joe Pascoe, 'Stephen Benwell – castle and shrines', *Ceramic Art and Perception*, No. 14, 1994
Gudrun Klix, 'The art of the object', *Craft Australia*, 1994