

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 and a Diploma of Education from the Melbourne State College in 1976. Stephen is currently undertaking his PhD at the Faculty of Art and Design, Monash University. 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

- 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
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

- 2010 *Fletcher Jones Art Prize Finalists' Exhibition*, Geelong Gallery, Victoria
2009 *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

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

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
 Collections continued:
 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

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

Robert Nelson, 'The dated and discredited brought back with a twist', *The Age*, 28 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