

Jugs Galore

Group Exhibition – 11th July – 2nd August 2009

Opening by Gail Nichols 5.30 pm Friday 10th July 2009

Rob Barron

CURRICULUM VITAE

Born in Harpenden, England, in 1957, Robert Barron commenced potting full-time in the family pottery at Croydon, Victoria, in 1976. In 1979, he left Australia on a five-year journey to New Zealand, North America, England, Europe, and South Korea to work with woodfiring potters. During this time, he visited Michael Cardew at Wenford Bridge Pottery, Cornwall, UK and studied with several of his trainees. He was also engaged as an apprentice at Cornwall Bridge Pottery, Connecticut, USA and frequented many workshops, art schools, galleries, and museums.

Returning to Australia in 1984, he established Gooseneck Pottery at Kardella, Victoria and with the assistance of a Crafts Board grant built a 1000 cubic ft five-chambered woodfired kiln. Influenced by the philosophies of Bernard Leach and Michael Cardew, and with a passion for the pots made by traditional crafts people throughout the world, he continues to develop ideas and techniques by exploring the intricacies of woodfiring.

ACQUISITIONS

Arts Victoria 1978 Festival Collection; Westpac Corporate Art Collection; Shepparton Art Gallery; Victorian Ministry for the Arts; Diamond Valley Shire Collection; Australian Crafts Centenary Collection; Sale regional Art Gallery; Myer Collection; Ballarat Fine Art Gallery; Water Phillips Gallery Banff Centre for the Arts, Alberta, Canada; Victorian Ceramic Group; Latrobe University; Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche, Faenza, Italy; Northern Arizona University Museum Collection; numerous private collections in Australia and overseas.

AWARDS

1979 Victoria Ceramic Group 10th Anniversary Pottery Award; Diamond Valley Art Award; Pugmill Award, South Australia.
1980 BP Australia Ceramic Award.
1984 Crafts Board Grant.
1991 RSPCA Ceramic Award; Victorian Ceramic Group Exhibition; Northcote Pottery Award.
1994 Visual Arts Crafts Board Grant; South Gippsland Crafts Prize.
1998 Poyntzpass Pioneers Ceramic Award; Sidney Myer Fund; Shepparton Art Gallery.
1999 Gold Coast Ceramic Award - Merit Award.
2008 Patrons Choice Award – Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts; Portland, OR, USA.

EXHIBITIONS

1978 Gallery 99, Carlton, Victoria.
1979 Fletcher Brownbuilt Exhibition, Auckland, New Zealand.
1981 Banff Centre for the Arts, Alberta, Canada.
1982 Surroundings Gallery, New York (group show with potters from Cornwall Bridge Pottery, Connecticut, USA).
1987 Sale Regional Art Gallery; Leongatha Art Gallery; Coalface Gallery, Yallourn.
1989 Distelfink Gallery, Hawthorn.
1990 Northcote Pottery Gallery, Thornbury.
1991 Shino Show, Distelfink Gallery, Hawthorn.
1994 Artworks Gallery, Nungurner, Victoria; Crystal Creek Resort, Dinner Plain Victoria; Westpac Private Bank Exhibition, Melbourne.
1995 Banff Centre for the Arts, Alberta, Canada.
1996 Australian Woodfire Survey 1996 (8th National Conference, Canberra); Artworks Gallery, Nungurner, Victoria.
1997 Then and Now - Works from the State Craft Collection and Contemporary Works, Meat Market Craft centre, Melbourne.
1998 Beaver Galleries, Canberra; Woodfire Show, Distelfink Gallery, Hawthorn; Fletcher Challenge Exhibition, Auckland, New Zealand.
1999 Woodfire Masters - Qdos, Lorne, Victoria; Different Stokes, Iowa University, Iowa, USA.
2000 Sidney Myer Fund - Shepparton Art Gallery, Gallery 101, Collins Street, Melbourne; Cloudehill, Olinda, Victoria.
2001 Cloudehill, Olinda, Victoria; Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche, Faenza, Italy.
2002 Ceramics Masters - Skepsi, Swanston Street, Melbourne.
2003 Meeniyen Art Gallery, Victoria.
2004 Ceramics Masters – Skepsi, Swanston Street, Melbourne
2004. Sydney Myer Fund – Shepparton Art Gallery, Shepparton.
2004 New Energies – Meeniyen Art Gallery, (Travelling show) Victoria.
2005 National Woodfire Survey Exhibition, Canberra Potters Society Gallery, Canberra.
2006 Freeland Gallery, Sydney. New Energies MAG (Travelling Exhibition)
2006 Mashiko, Japan.
2006 Northern Arizona University.
2006/07 Freeland Gallery, Sydney.
2007 Clay – Wood – Fire. Chemeketa College, Oregon, USA.
2007 “Six of the best” The Barn Pottery, Moretonhampstead, Devon, UK.
2008 Masters Exhibition, Sturt Woodfire, Mittagong, NSW.
2008 Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts, Portland, Oregon, USA
2009 “Jugs Galore” Altenburg Gallery Braidwood NSW

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE & LECTURING EXPERIENCE

- 1981 Woodfiring Residency Banff Centre for the Arts, Alberta, Canada; Workshop at Chicago Art Institute, USA.
1986 Conference Paper at Woodfire '86.
1987-2005 Regular workshops and demonstrations at Gooseneck Pottery to visiting college groups.
1988 Demonstration at VCG Festival of Ceramics; Slide Presentation at Ceramics '88 (National Conference, Sydney).
1989 Conference Paper at Woodfire '89.
1990 Lecture and Workshop Tour of USA, Bradley University, Illinois; Iowa State University; Juniata College, Pennsylvania.
1995 Residency at the Leighton Artists Colony and Slide Presentation, Banff Centre for the Arts, Alberta, Canada; Slide Presentation at NCECA Conference, Minnesota, USA.
1998 Sidney Myer Fund International Ceramic Award Conference, Shepparton Art Gallery.
1999 Demonstration / Slide Presentation / Fire Master, Qdos Woodfire Conference, Lorne, Victoria.
2001 Demonstration / Slide Presentation, Monash University, Melbourne.
2003 Slide Presentation / Panel Discussion, - "Ignition", National Ceramic Conference, Bendigo, Victoria.
2004- Slide Presentation / Demonstration, Chisholm Inst. / Monash Uni.
2005 Slide Presentation, Gundaroo Wood fire Conference
2006 Throwing course / Slide Presentation. Sturt Summer School, Mittagong, NSW.
2006 Residency, Slide presentation, Demonstrator at the Mashiko International Ceramics Symposium.
2006 20+1 Years of the Tozan Kilns. International Woodfire Conference. Arizona, USA.
2007 Residency. La Borne s'enflamme, La Borne, France.
2008 Sturt Woodfire, Mittagong, NSW.
2008 Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts, Portland, OR, USA. (Keynote address)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1986 Wood fire '86 - Proceedings of National Wood fire Conference.
1989 Woodfire '89 - Proceedings of National Woodfire Conference; Craft Victoria 7/89; Pottery Australia Vol. 28, No.3; Meat Market Craft Centre Export Video 1989
1990 Ceramics Art and Perception, Issue No. 2; Pottery in Australia, Vol. 29, No. 3.
1992 Ceramics Art and Perception, Issue No. 7.
1994 Pottery in Australia, Vol. 33, No. 3.
1995 *Woodfired Stoneware and Porcelain* by Jack Troy.
1997 "The Kiln at Kardella," *Ceramics Technical*, No. 3, 1997.
1998 Pottery in Australia, Vol. 37, No. 1.
1999 Ceramics Art and Perception, Issue No. 35.
2000 *Bourke's Back Yard*, Channel 9, August 2000.
2005 Gundaroo Woodfire Conference.
2006 The Log Book, Firing at the Gooseneck.
2008 Ceramics Australia

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Artist Statement

For over thirty years, making pots and firing with wood continues to be a great force in my life. Whether it is preparing the clay, throwing on the wheel or stoking the kiln, I find the all encompassing nature of the making process immensely satisfying and on going source of inspiration.

Since the dawn of time man and woman have worked with clay. As a potter in 2009, I too am part of this great continuum, informed by a rich history, responding to current ideas and excited by future prospects.

The pieces exhibited in this show reflect a contemporary approach to wood firing. The firing cycle has been extended, encouraging deep layers of melted wood ash to build up on the clay.

These days I find myself diving into the embers and moving work around, creating my own individual expression out of the fire itself. The firing process has become an aesthetic tool and the division between technique and idea has become blurred.

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