

POWERHOUSE CLAY DYNASTY SYMPOSIUM SATURDAY 2 APRIL 2022

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

9.30AM Welcome to Country, Uncle Brendan Kerin

9.40AM Eva Czernis-Ryl, curator, introducing Clay Dynasty

10.00AM Paul Davis, A Clay Dynasty: East, West and the Sturt Legacy.

10.30AM Geoff Crispin, Ivan McMeekin, threads that persist

11.00AM Grace Cochrane, Dynasty! A sequential story over 66 years, following the influences of The Australian Ceramics Association (TACA), Peter Rushforth and Thancoupie (Thanakupi)

11.30AM Kirsten Coelho, 30 Years: Objects, Friendship, Mentorship and Gwyn Hanssen Pigott

12.00PM Penny Evans, Process presented by Emily McDaniel, Director, First Nations

12.30PM Lynda Draper, In clay: a reflection on practice

1.00PM Lunch

2.00PM Gerry Wedd, Under the influence

2.30PM Stephen Bird, Painting on Clay

3.00PM Vipoo Srivilasa, Should artists have felt useless during lockdown?

3.30PM Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran, Sculptural propositions

4.00PM Ceramic Futures. Panel discussion moderated by Ursula Sullivan, Director, sullivan+strumpf with Kirsten Coelho, Lynda Draper, Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran and Vipoo Srivilasa.

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SPEAKERS

Stephen Bird

Stephen Bird is a prominent and readily recognisable contemporary artist who holds an international reputation for his sculptural ceramics. Born in Stoke-on-Trent in Staffordshire, England, Bird spent most of his life in Scotland before moving to Australia in 2007. He has since worked mostly from Sydney making distinctive ceramics that draw both on Staffordshire and pre-industrial European ceramic traditions and on contemporary culture.

Grace Cochrane AM

Grace Cochrane AM is an independent curator, writer and consultant, with 50 years experience working with contemporary craftspeople and their organisations. A former senior curator at the Powerhouse, she is the author of *The Crafts Movement in Australia: A History* (1992) and many other publications.

Kirsten Coelho

Kirsten Coelho is a distinguished porcelain ceramicist who makes monochromatic wheel-thrown bottle forms and containers often presented as still-life groupings. Believing that ceramics have 'the potential to act as visual metaphors for cultural and historical convergence', her work has often been influenced by nineteenth and early twentieth century domestic vessels, particularly white enamel ware and other metal containers found in Australian kitchens and sheds, which show signs of use and decay.

Geoff Crispin

A renowned Australian potter, Geoff Crispin belongs to the generation of highly accomplished potters who forged their careers in the second part of the 20th century. His pots are held in numerous public and private collections. Working with wood fired ceramics and utilizing local raw materials ceramics for over fifty years, Crispin creates porcelain and stoneware vessels originally inspired by his introduction to ceramics by Ivan McMeekin at the University of NSW in the late 1960s. Geoff has spent many years working with Indigenous peoples both in Australia and around the world.

Eva Czernis-Ryl

Eva is curator of Clay Dynasty. She is an art and design historian, author and curator of decorative arts and design at the Powerhouse. Educated in Poland, Eva worked at the Arsenal gallery and the National Museum in Poznan before joining the Powerhouse where she has curated a wide range of major exhibitions. Eva was curator for the Powerhouse's inaugural Willoughby Bequest 2020 Commissioning Program.

Paul Davis

Paul Davis is an acclaimed ceramicist that has researched glazes and new approaches to application for over forty years. A member of the International Academy of Ceramics, Davis has been awarded multiple residencies, lectured nationally and internationally and was the manager of Sturt Pottery from 2001 – 2009.

Lynda Draper

Lynda Draper has been Head of Ceramics at the National School of Art in Sydney since 2016. She is a prominent Australian visual artist, principally working in the ceramics medium. Draper is the recipient of many prestigious awards including the Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Award, and her works are held in many national and international collections.

Penny Evans

Penny Evans is a leading contemporary Indigenous Australian visual artist. She creates ceramic works referencing her Gamilaroi heritage that celebrate Indigenous stories and cultural traditions. She is the recipient of multiple awards, including the 2016 Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art People's Choice Award.

Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran

Sri-Lankan born leading Australian contemporary artist Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran creates figurative ceramics in his signature neo-expressionist and polychromatic style. Nithiyendran's works in clay and bronze often subvert the figures' history-sanctioned forms and monumentality. His arsenal of subversive devices extends to the use of crudely executed and exaggerated facial expressions which the artist compares to the visual language of the emoji. Spray-painted graffiti and now also neons are part of his extensive repertoire of motifs and symbols borrowed from contemporary popular culture.

Ursula Sullivan

Ursula Sullivan is the Co-Director of Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney which she established in 2005 with Joanna Strumpf. Now one of the leading spaces for contemporary art in Sydney, Sullivan+Strumpf works with over 40 contemporary emerging and established artists, with an exhibition schedule that includes regular participation in key national and international art fairs, including Art Basel Hong Kong, Art SG, Singapore, the Melbourne Art Fair and Sydney Contemporary. In 2016, Sullivan+Strumpf opened a second gallery space at Singapore's Gillman Barracks, the first Australian gallery to establish a permanent presence in Asia.

Vipoo Srivilasa

Thai-born and Melbourne-based, Vipoo Srivilasa is a distinguished artist, curator and arts activist. He creates porcelain sculptures that playfully blend contemporary culture, Asian and European decorative contemporary culture. Awarded the 2021 Ceramic Artist of the Year by Ceramics Monthly and Pottery Making, Srivilasa's work is held in major international and national collections.

Gerry Wedd

Gerry Wedd is a celebrated Australian ceramicist, beginning his career as a graphic artist for the iconic design company Mambo. Wedd is known for his hand-built forms embedded with his witty humour and commentary. Drawing on surf culture, politics and music, Wedd has received numerous awards, exhibited nationally and internationally and his work is held in numerous public and private collections.