

MEDIA RELEASE

HEIDE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
June 2019

Museum of
Modern Art
Heide

AN IDEA NEEDING TO BE MADE: CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS

Heide Museum of Modern Art presents a major contemporary ceramics exhibition featuring leading artists from around the world

Saturday 27 July to Sunday 20 October 2019



Melbourne, Australia: Heide Museum of Modern Art will present the work of twelve leading international and local artists in a new exhibition titled *An Idea Needing to Be Made: Contemporary Ceramics*. The exhibition will explore the idea of the vessel form and its continued use and reinvention by contemporary artists working in clay. Presented from 27 July to 20 October 2019, the project brings together a number of key influencers in contemporary ceramics from across Europe, America, Asia, New Zealand and Australia.

An Idea Needing to Be Made: Contemporary Ceramics is foregrounded historically by the work of Australia's most celebrated potter Gwyn Hanssen Pigott, whose interest in and interrogation of the vessel and the still life tradition ushered in a new way of thinking about function, display and purpose. In the exhibition each artist uses the format of Hanssen Piggott's internationally renowned still-life groups of porcelain vessels to reimagine the vessel form and explore original techniques.

The exhibition positions the artists to investigate one or more of the enquiries and ideas posed by Hanssen Pigott; including how a vessel can function as something to be used but also be about use; how an artwork can be understood as a collection or suite of objects; and why is the past an eternal present in ceramic practice?

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Heide Museum of Modern Art Artistic Director Lesley Harding says, *“The exhibition is not intended to be a survey of any kind, but rather to show a series of touchstones that represent a range of contemporary approaches to the age-old form of the vessel. The invited artists—a number of whom have made new work to display—contribute to the lineage and future for this most ubiquitous of objects, and share ideas across cultures.”*

Co-curator Glenn Barkley adds, *“An Idea Needing to be Made offers an opportunity to see a substantial group of works by some of the key influencers in contemporary ceramics. All interrogate the timeless potential of the medium and the vitality of the vessel form. Acknowledging the increased interest in ceramics across the art world, this exhibition provides a chance to see some of the most inventive practitioners at work today from across the globe alongside their Australian peers, creating an international dialogue for this once marginalised medium.”*

The exhibition features the work of twelve artists from across Australia and overseas, including:

Alison Britton (UK)
Kathy Butterly (US)
Kirsten Coelho (AUS)
Pippin Drysdale (AUS)
Ernebella Arts (AUS)
Simone Fraser (AUS)
Gwyn Hanssen Pigott (AUS)
King Houndekpinkou (FRA)
Nicolette Johnson (AUS)
Kate Malone (UK)
Kang Hyo Lee (KOR)
Laurie Steer (NZ)



The exhibition has been designed by renowned Australian architecture firm John Wardle Architects and is accompanied by a catalogue designed by Garry Emery with Jane Mooney and a diverse public program including:

ART TALK

GLENN BARKLEY AND LESLEY HARDING

Saturday 27 July, 2pm

Heide Museum of Modern Art Artistic Director Lesley Harding and exhibition co-curator Glenn Barkley open their new exhibition *An Idea Needing to be Made: Contemporary Ceramics* with an afternoon discussion on artists' continual reinvention of the vessel form, and how it is a vehicle for an idea, a past and a future.

HEIDE X NORTHCOTE POTTERY SUPPLIES

In celebration of contemporary ceramics and the exhibition *An Idea Needing to be Made: Contemporary Ceramics*, Heide is thrilled to be partnering with Northcote Pottery Supplies to present a series of Sunday afternoon workshops over August, September and October.

ALISON BRITTON: ROUND TABLE TUITION

Sunday 11 August, 2-4pm

Adult \$180/Concession \$160/Member \$150

BETTINA WILNER-BROWNE: CERAMIC WALL HANGINGS & TABLETS

Sunday 8 September, 1-4pm

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KIRSTEN COELHO: WORKING WITH PORCELAIN
Sunday 22 September, 1-4pm

ANGELA BRENNAN: SURFACE, PATTERN AND ABSTRACTION
Sunday 6 October, 1-4pm
Adult \$240/Concession \$220/Member \$200
Museum admission, workshop, materials and wine and cheese included.

To book tickets for the public program please see heide.com.au

-ENDS-

Exhibition Details:

An Idea Needing to be Made: Contemporary Ceramics

27 July – 20 October 2019

Heide Museum of Modern Art

7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen, VIC 3105

Museum opening hours

Tuesday–Sunday, 10am–5pm. Closed Mondays

Admission fees apply: Members free | Adult \$20 | Concession \$15 | Children (16 and under) free

heide.com.au

MEDIA CONTACT: For further information or interview requests please contact Claire Martin, claire@articulatepr.com.au, 0414 437 588 or Megan Bentley, megan@articulatepr.com.au, 0452 214 611

IMAGES: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ad8qq8wlkz19tou/AAAu_FHyqv3sRluWgREGSgf-a?dl=0

Image Captions:

1. Pippin Drysdale, *Splendour at Black Rock, East Kimberley* 2018-19 (detail), porcelain, courtesy of the artist and Adrian Sassoon, London; Joanna Bird, London; Sabbia Gallery, Sydney; and Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge MA, photograph: Robert Frith—acorn photo
2. Simone Fraser, *Landscapes Series I* 2019 (detail), dry glaze, mid-fired ceramic, 60 x 40 cm (diam.), courtesy of the artist and Sabbia Gallery, Sydney photograph: Greg Piper

ABOUT HEIDE

Heide Museum of Modern Art is one of Australia's most important cultural institutions. Here John and Sunday Reed, who in 1934 bought the weatherboard farmhouse that is now 'Heide I,' fostered the talent of the artists with whom they surrounded themselves, in this way shaping the creation of a new and progressive cultural landscape.

Today Heide holds an important collection of over 3400 works. The site comprises a series of spaces including Heide I, Heide II (the modernist 'gallery to be lived in' designed in the 1960s), and the purpose-built galleries – Heide III and IV. In addition, there are six hectares of land encompassing a sculpture park and plaza, the Heide II kitchen garden designed by Sunday Reed in the 1960s, a working garden supplying Café Heide, the 'Heart Garden' (planted by Sunday Reed as a symbol of her love for artist Sidney Nolan), an indigenous remnant garden at the edge of the Yarra River, and various garden installations.

In response to John and Sunday Reed's legacy, Heide works to inspire creative talent, collaborating with emerging and mid-career artists as well as celebrating those who have made major contributions as contemporary artists.

heide.com.au