SABBIA GALLERY

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LES BLAKEBROUGH AM

Les Blakebrough is one of Australia's leading ceramic artists. During a career spanning six decades, he has held dozens of solo exhibitions throughout Australia and internationally. His work is held by all Australian state galleries, the Australian National Gallery and the Imperial Palace Collection, Tokyo. He has received numerous awards including a gold medal at the International Exhibition of Ceramic Art, Faenza, Italy. In 2005 he became the first artist to be honoured with a solo exhibition in the Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft series, curated by Sydney's Object: Centre for Australian Craft and Design. He has been the recipient of an Australia Council Fellowship and many Australian Research Council grants. In 2008 he was Senior Tasmanian of the Year, and he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2013.

British-born, Blakebrough migrated to Australia in 1948 at the age of 18 and, after serving an apprenticeship at Sturt Pottery at Mittagong, studied with Takeichi Kawai in Japan before returning to Australia to become Director of the Sturt Workshops. He taught ceramics for many years at the Tasmanian School of Art and was later Principal Research Fellow of the Ceramic Research Unit at the University of Tasmania where he led the development of Southern Ice Porcelain. He now lives at works at Coledale, NSW.

Professional activities

2015–16	Mentor to Keiko Matsui (Australia Council for the Arts funded mentorship program)
2014	Master class, Sturt Craft Centre, Mittagong
2014	Honorary Fellow, University of Wollongong (current appointment)
2013	Member of the Order of Australia (AM)
2012	Established studio at Coledale, NSW
2008	Tasmanian Senior Australian of the Year
2005	Member International Academy of Ceramics
1996 - 2010	Principal Research Fellow, Ceramic Research Unit, University of Tasmania
1989 – 1996	Associate Professor and Head, Ceramic Studio, Tasmanian School of Art in Hobart, University of Tasmania

Recent solo exhibitions

2019	Moving Forward, Looking Back, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
2017	Gathering Light II, Bett Gallery, Hobart
2016	Gathering Light, Beaver Gallery, Canberra
2014	My Place: new porcelain, Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW
	My Place: new porcelain, BMG Art, Adelaide
	A Fine White Line, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
2012	Les Blakebrough: Porcelain, Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2010	The Fifth Decade Exhibition, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
	The Fifth Decade Exhibition, Bett Gallery, Hobart
2009	New Porcelain, BMG Art, Adelaide
	New Porcelain, AXIA Gallery, Melbourne

2008	Les Blakebrough: Ceramics (Inaugural Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft exhibition) tour Tweed Region Gallery/ Port Macquarie Gallery/ Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Launceston / Noosa Regional Art Gallery
2007	The New Porcelain, Primavera Gallery, Cambridge UK
2006	Les Blakebrough: Ceramics (inaugural Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft exhibition), Bathurst Regional Gallery/ FORM, Perth / Hawkesbury Regional Gallery/ Craft ACT, Canberra/ Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
2005	Les Blakebrough: Ceramics (Inaugural Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft exhibition), Object Gallery, Sydney NSW
2005	Flora Tasmanica, Botanic Gardens Gallery, Sydney
2002	Bett Gallery, Hobart
	Ceramic Art Gallery, Sydney
2001	Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2000	BMG Fine Art, Adelaide
	Sturt Gallery, Mittagong, NSW
1998	BMG Fine Art, Adelaide
1997	Savode Gallery, Brisbane
	Ceramic Art Gallery, Sydney

Selected group exhibitions

2018	National Art: Part One, NAS Gallery, Sydney
	Something Blue: Ceramic Masters, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
2015	Turn, Turn, Turn: the studio ceramics tradition (curated by Glenn Barkley), NAS Gallery, Sydney
	Of National Significance, Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW
2010	Hobart City Art Prize Exhibition, Hobart
2007	Smart Works: Design and the Handmade, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
2006	Artbank: Celebrating 25 Years of Australian Art, touring State and Regional Galleries
	Surface Connections, Manningham Art Gallery, Melbourne
	International Ceramic Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery
2004/5	Surface: Beneath and Beyond, a Tasmanian Touring Exhibition
2002	Material Culture, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
	Ritual of Tea, Jam Factory, Adelaide and regional gallery tour
2001	Response to the Island, Ten Days on the Island Festival, Long Gallery, Hobart
1999	Contemporary Australian Craft to Japan – Hokkaido, Takaoka and Shiga: Customs House, Sydney
1998	Southern Light, Australia & Chicago, USA
1997	Four Visions of Antarctica, Newcastle City Gallery, Newcastle NSW
	Sidney Myer Ceramic Award and Exhibition, Shepparton, Victoria
1996	Triaxial Blend, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, USA
1995	Delinquent Angles, Faenza, Italy, then Japan and Australian State galleries
	Vessel as Subject, Indonesia

Residencies

2015	Arabia Factory, Helsinki, Finland (August–November)
	Bundanon, NSW

Public collections

National Art School
The Australiana Fund
University of Wollongong
All Australian State and Territory galleries
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Imperial Palace Collection, Tokyo, Japan
National Museum of Applied Art, Oslo, Norway
Royal Palace Collection, Copenhagen, Denmark
Australian Embassy, Peking, China

Commonwealth Collection, London
Crafts Council of Australia, Sydney
Government House, Canberra
International Museum of Ceramic Art, Faenza, Italy
National Bank of Austria, Vienna
Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne
Australian National University
HRH Queen Elizabeth II (Official Tasmanian Gift)

Consultancy and commissions

2015–2019	Consulting with Clayworks, Australia, manufacturer under licence of Southern Ice porcelain (ongoing)
2005	Flora Tasmanica Limited Edition Porcelain, gifted by University of Tasmania to HRH Princess Mary of Denmark
2002	Vice-Chancellor's Southern Ice porcelain dinner set, University of Tasmania
1990	University of Tasmania Centenary Fountain
1989–1990	Port Arthur Historic Site Restoration Research and Kiln Design Project
1982	University of Tasmania Centre ceramic mural

Awards

2015	Bundanon artist residency
1998–1999	Australia Council Creative Arts Fellowship
1996–1997	Australia Council Research Fellowship
1996	Sidney Myer Ceramic Award and Exhibition, Shepparton, Victoria
1995	Newcastle City Gallery Ceramic Purchase Exhibition Award
1993	Boral Award, North Queensland
1992	Churchill Research Fellowship
1974	Gold medal, International Exhibition of Ceramic Art, Faenza, Italy

Research grants

1998–2000	Australian Research Council (ARC) Grant, Industrial processes for craft-based industry
1998–1999	ARC Grant, Porcelain clay development
1995	ARC Grant, Industrial processes for craft-based industry; ARC Grant, Porcelain clay development
1992–1993	ARC Grant, Flexible kiln design
1991–1993	ARC Grant, Tasmanian porcelain clay

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