
SABBIA GALLERY

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LES BLAKEBROUGH

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 and 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, UTAS

Recent solo exhibitions

2019	<i>Moving Forward, Looking Back</i> , Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
2017	<i>Gathering Light II</i> , Bett Gallery, Hobart
2016	<i>Gathering Light</i> , Beaver Gallery, Canberra
2014	<i>My Place: new porcelain</i> , Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW <i>My Place: new porcelain</i> , BMG Art, Adelaide <i>A Fine White Line</i> , Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
2012	<i>Les Blakebrough: Porcelain</i> , Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2010	<i>The Fifth Decade Exhibition</i> , Sabbia Gallery, Sydney <i>The Fifth Decade Exhibition</i> , Bett Gallery, Hobart
2009	<i>New Porcelain</i> , BMG Art, Adelaide <i>New Porcelain</i> , AXIA Gallery, Melbourne
2008	<i>Les Blakebrough: Ceramics</i> (Inaugural <i>Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft</i> exhibition) tour Tweed Region Gallery/ Port Macquarie Gallery/ Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Launceston / Noosa Regional Art Gallery
2007	<i>The New Porcelain</i> , Primavera Gallery, Cambridge UK

2006	<i>Les Blakebrough: Ceramics</i> (inaugural <i>Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft</i> exhibition), Bathurst Regional Gallery/ FORM, Perth / Hawkesbury Regional Gallery/ Craft ACT, Canberra/ Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
2005	<i>Les Blakebrough: Ceramics</i> (Inaugural <i>Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft</i> exhibition), Object Gallery, Sydney NSW
2005	<i>Flora Tasmanica</i> , Botanic Gardens Gallery, Sydney
2002	Bett Gallery, Hobart
2002	Ceramic Art Gallery, Sydney
2001	Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2000	BMG Fine Art, Adelaide
2000	Sturt Gallery, Mittagong, NSW
1998	BMG Fine Art, Adelaide
1997	Savode Gallery, Brisbane
1997	Ceramic Art Gallery, Sydney

Selected group exhibitions

2020	L'uomo – Masters of Ceramics, Sabbia Gallery, Redfern, Sydney Salute XV, Sabbia Gallery, Redfern Sydney
2019	Avanti – Sabbia moves to Redfern, Sabbia Gallery, Redfern Sydney
2018	<i>National Art: Part One</i> , NAS Gallery, Sydney
2018	<i>Something Blue: Ceramic Masters</i> , Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
2015	<i>Turn, Turn, Turn: the studio ceramics tradition</i> (curated by Glenn Barkley), NAS Gallery, Sydney
2015	<i>Of National Significance</i> , Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW
2010	Hobart City Art Prize Exhibition, Hobart
2007	<i>Smart Works: Design and the Handmade</i> , Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
2006	<i>Artbank: Celebrating 25 Years of Australian Art</i> , touring State and Regional Galleries
2006	<i>Surface Connections</i> , Manningham Art Gallery, Melbourne
2006	International Ceramic Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery
2004/5	<i>Surface: Beneath and Beyond</i> , a Tasmanian Touring Exhibition
2002	<i>Material Culture</i> , National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
2002	<i>Ritual of Tea</i> , Jam Factory, Adelaide and regional gallery tour
2001	<i>Response to the Island</i> , Ten Days on the Island Festival, Long Gallery, Hobart
1999	<i>Contemporary Australian Craft to Japan – Hokkaido, Takaoka and Shiga</i> : Customs House, Sydney
1998	<i>Southern Light</i> , Australia & Chicago, USA
1997	<i>Four Visions of Antarctica</i> , Newcastle City Gallery, Newcastle NSW
1997	<i>Sidney Myer Ceramic Award and Exhibition</i> , Shepparton, Victoria
1996	<i>Triaxial Blend</i> , Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, USA
1995	<i>Delinquent Angles</i> , Faenza, Italy, then Japan and Australian State galleries
1995	<i>Vessel as Subject</i> , Indonesia

Residencies

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

Public collections

National Art School	Commonwealth Collection, London
The Australiana Fund	Crafts Council of Australia, Sydney
University of Wollongong	Government House, Canberra
All Australian State and Territory galleries	International Museum of Ceramic Art, Faenza, Italy
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra	National Bank of Austria, Vienna
Imperial Palace Collection, Tokyo, Japan	Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne
National Museum of Applied Art, Oslo, Norway	Australian National University
Royal Palace Collection, Copenhagen, Denmark	HRH Queen Elizabeth II (Official Tasmanian Gift)
Australian Embassy, Peking, China	

Consultancy and commissions

2015–2018	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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