



## CATHY FRANZI

Australian Capital Territory

Dr Cathy Franzi is a ceramic artist exploring botanical and environmental themes. In 2015 she was awarded a Doctorate in Visual Arts (Ceramics) from the Australian National University School of Art & Design. Her doctoral research investigated scientific and cultural values attributed to plant species, including a study of historical ceramics, prints and botanical illustrations in museums and galleries around the world. Through her art practice she explores how Australian plants and environmental knowledge might be expressed in ceramic form and surface.

Botanical research is fundamental to the integrity of Cathy's work and is supported by her Bachelor of Science from the University of Sydney. In preparation for a body of work, time is spent in the field observing, drawing and photographing plants. Whether accompanying botanists, or in an herbarium or seed bank, insights and methods of scientific research inform and become embedded in her studio practice. Her interdisciplinary approach has led to numerous science-art projects including the prestigious ANU Vice-Chancellor's College Artist Fellows Scheme in the Research School of Biology and the 'Art of Threatened Species' funded by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

Cathy Franzi's work is held in national and international public collections including Grassi Museum of Decorative Arts, Leipzig, Germany, Parliament House Art Collection, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, Canberra Museum & Gallery, Shepparton Art Museum, Art Gallery of Ballarat and the ANU Art Collection. She has been the recipient of several awards and grants including Australia Council for the Arts, the Nelson Nichols Scholarship in Ceramics and most recently Highly Commended in the 2020 Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize. In 2022 she was artist-in-residence at the Zentrum für Keramik in Berlin during her first international solo exhibition and in 2023 she was artist-in-residence at Vancouver Arts Centre in Albany WA, researching its rich biodiversity and environment in preparation for making new work. She is a lecturer in the ANU School of Art & Design.

*Ceramics is an expressive medium, allowing form, surface, and material to describe an idea. At first, I study each plant in detail considering its structure and how I might respond in ceramic form. Each piece is wheel-thrown and altered allowing unexpected movement in which to respond with surface imagery. The decorative process entails making marks through a black coating to reveal white porcelain below, in effect to draw by reduction with line and texture. The joy of colour comes from a pop of glaze or ceramic material, to bring one's eye from graphic black and white to delightful flower.*  
Cathy Franzi, 2023

Image by Andrew Sikorski

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