

# Stella Downer Fine Art

## Dealer Consultant & Valuer

Member of the Australian Commercial Galleries Association  
ABN 86 229 108 803

### MERRAN ESSON

Born Tumbarumba, NSW 1950

#### SELECTED EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

- 2016 Master Presenter, Clay Gulgong 2016, International Ceramics Festival, Mansfield Ceramics
- 2015 *Drawn to Form: the Matter in Hand*. Co Curator with Abdullah M.I.Syed. Blacktown Arts Centre, NSW
- 2012 Keynote speaker, ASNA Clay Triennial, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2011 Keynote speaker, *International Ceramics and Tea Symposium*, National Taiwan University of the Arts, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2010 Subject leader: Ceramics at the National Art School, Sydney
- 2009 Acting Head of Ceramics, National Art School, Sydney
- 1997 - Full time lecturer on Ceramics at the National Art School, Sydney
- 2006 Artist in Residence, The National Art School Paris Studio at Cite Des Internationale, Paris, France
- 2004 awarded MA Visual Arts, Monash University, Melbourne  
visiting lecturer at Xi'an Academy of Fine Art and Central Academy of Fine Art, Beijing
- 1996 part time teacher of Ceramics at St George TAFE, Hornsby TAFE and the National Art School, CoFA, UNSW.  
Awarded certificate of Attainment on Clay and Glaze Technology, National Art School
- 1993-94 part time teacher in Ceramics, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland; visiting lecturer at Glasgow School of Art
- 1983-89 Part-time Lecturer, Ceramic Workshop, Sydney University, National Art School & Brookvale TAFE, Sydney
- 1978-81 Teacher of Visual Art, Kambala Girls School, Sydney
- 1974-76 Diploma in Art and Design, Caulfield institute of Technology, Melbourne, VIC

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Autumn on the Monaro*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
- 2015 *Catchment*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW

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- 2011 *Merran Esson Ceramics*, BMG Art, Adelaide, SA
- 2008 *Displaced places*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
- 1998 *Buckets and Boundaries*, The Switchback Gallery, Monash University, Gippsland, Vic & Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1999 *Boundaries*, Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1993 *Cranes and Fishes*, Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1994 *Artist Profile -Merran Esson*, The Open Eye Gallery, Scotland
- 1977 *Beneath the Surface*, Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1982 *For Pitcher, For Pourer*, BMG Fine Art, Sydney, NSW  
*Merran Esson*, Breewood Gallery, Katoomba, NSW

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Snowy Valleys Sculpture Trail*, Sculpture by the Sea, Snowy Valleys, NSW (permanent exhibition)  
*Destination Sydney: The natural world*, Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney, NSW
- 2021 *Shades of Summer*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW  
*Clay Dynasties*, The Powerhouse Museum, Museum of Applied Arts and Science, Ultimo, Sydney, NSW  
*Flora*, Arts in Greater Dandenong, Dandenong, VIC  
*Summer 2021*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 *Tree Change*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW  
*Beyond the Bowl*, Hurstville Museum and Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
*Muswellbrook Art Prize* (Winner of the Ceramic Prize), Muswellbrook, NSW  
*Sculpture at the Scenic World*, Blue Mountains, NSW  
*Sculpture Otherwise*, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Katoomba, NSW  
*Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize 2019*, Sydney, NSW
- 2018 *Shades of Green and Blue*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
- 2017 *Chaos or Control*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW  
*A Stella(r) Renaissance*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW

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- Sculpture in the Valley*, Kangaroo Valley, NSW  
*Sculpture at the Scenic World*, Katoomba, NSW  
*The White Room*, Stanley Street Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
(curated by Sean Morris)  
*A prize Collection: Studio Ceramics from the Carillon City Festival and Bathurst Art Prizes 1972-1988*, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 2016 *Sculpture By the Sea*, Bondi, Sydney, NSW  
*Ceramics from Australia and New Zealand*, Saint Raphael Hall, Sant Pau Modernista, Barcelona, Spain (47<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Academy of Ceramics)  
*Objects in Space*, The Japanese Garden and the Peacock Gallery at Auburn Botanic Gardens, NSW  
*SQ1@ARO*, Square One Studios exhibited at ARO Gallery, Sydney  
Masters Exhibition, Clay Gulgong 2016, Gulgong, NSW  
*Gallery Artists*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney NSW
- 2016 *In Residence*, Artists from Square One Studios, Danks Street Depot. Sydney, NSW
- 2015 *Deck the Walls*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW  
*Turn Turn Turn*, National Art School Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
*Common Differences*, Mansfield Ceramics Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
*300gram exhibition*, Mansfield Ceramics Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2014 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize (Finalist), Sydney, NSW  
*Gallery Artists*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW  
*Australia-Korea, Heritage and Diversity*, Hanyang University Museum, Seoul, South Korea  
*The Course of Objects: The Fine Lines of Enquiry*, Manly Museum and Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2013 *Gallery Artists*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW  
ASNA Clay Triennial, Rangoonwalla Centre Karachi
- 2012 *Not the Way Home*, Satellite Exhibition, Walcha Gallery, NSW  
*Not the Way Home*, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
and touring to: Orange Regional Gallery, NSW

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- Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale, NSW  
*Fowlers Gap: 13 artists paint the desert*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW  
Melbourne Art Fair, represented by Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
- 2011 *Celebrating the Year of Friendship between Australia and Korea*, Korea Foundation Cultural Centre, Seoul, Korea  
*International Ceramics Exhibition*, Ceramics Art and Design for a Sustainable Culture, Frolana Kulturhus, Gothenberg, Sweden  
*International Ceramics and Tea Symposium*, National Taiwan University of the Arts, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2010 *Firing Into the Future*, Post Office Gallery, University of Ballarat, VIC  
*Private Treasures, Public Pleasures: Ceramics*, Orange Regional Gallery, NSW  
Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award Exhibition, Gold Coast Art City Art Gallery, QLD (finalist)
- 2009 *Bravura: 21st Century Australian Craft. Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA*  
*Ceramics*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW  
*ISCAEE members exhibition*, Yeosu Exhibition Space, Korea  
*LINK. Ceramics from Kongju and Sydney*, NAS Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2008 Merran Esson *Displaced Places* & Filomena Coppola *Heart Song*, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW  
Sidney Myer Fund International Art Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, VIC (finalist)  
*Off Shore 3*, The Jam Factory, Adelaide, SA  
Melbourne Art Fair (Stella Downer Fine Art)  
*Salute*, Fusions Gallery, Brisbane, QLD  
Singapore Art Fair (Gaffer Gallery, Hong Kong)
- 2007 *Mastery: Contemporary Ceramics*, Gaffer Studio Glass Gallery, Hong Kong  
*Pots of Paint*, Delmar Gallery, Sydney, NSW

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- Ceramics at the National Art School, Rosehill Cottage, Gulgong, NSW*
- 2006 *Korean Art Fair (Gaffer Studio Glass Gallery)*  
*Collecting the Eclectic, All Hand Made Gallery, Sydney, NSW*  
*Sculpture and Ceramics, Stephanie Burns Fine Art, Canberra, ACT*  
*Australische Impressionen, Galerie Rosenhauer, Germany*  
*Melbourne Art Fair (Stella Downer Fine Art)*  
*Clay STATEments, NSW 09, Convention and Exhibition Centre, part of the 11<sup>th</sup> National Ceramics Conference (lecturer, delegate and speaker), Brisbane*  
*Contours, Merran Esson, Miik Green, Guy Stuart, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW*
- 2005 *Collect, Victoria and Albert Museum, London*  
*Sculpture 2005, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney, NSW*  
*Beyond Earth, Manly Museum and Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW*  
*Chilli, Cudgegong Gallery, Gulgong, NSW*  
*City of Hobart Art Prize, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, TAS (finalist)*  
*Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award, Gold Coast Art City Art Gallery, QLD (winner)*  
*AMP Capital Investors Sculpture Exhibition associated with Art and About, AMP Building, Circular Quay, Sydney, NSW*  
*Transformations: The Language of Craft, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT*  
*Earth, Wind and Fire, Cudgegong Gallery, Gulgong, NSW*  
*Small Wonders, Delmar Gallery, Sydney, NSW*
- 1959 *Vessel:Diverse, Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney, NSW*  
*The Hollow and the Whole, Delmar Gallery, Sydney, NSW*  
*Forty, Object Gallery, Sydney, NSW*  
*Clay Modern, Cudgegong Gallery, Gulgong, NSW*  
*Small Wonders, Delmar Gallery, Sydney, NSW*
- 2003 *Ceramics: the Australian and New Zealand Context, Campbelltown Bicentennial Art Gallery, NSW*  
*The Rye Crop, Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney, NSW*  
*Small, The Atrium Gallery, Glasgow School of Art, Scotland*

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- 1978 *12<sup>th</sup> Birthday Exhibition*, Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2003 *The Studio Tradition*, Manly Museum and Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
*Ignite*, Cell Block Theatre, National Art School, Sydney, NSW
- 1999 *Australia's Best*, Australian Tourist Commission and IOC Partnership exhibition of works as part of Olympic Arts Program, Circular Quay, Sydney, NSW  
*10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Exhibition*, Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
Port Hacking Award, The Hazelhurst Arts Centre, Gymea, NSW (winner)
- 1999 *Diverse*, Exhibition of Delegates, 9<sup>th</sup> National Ceramic Conference, W.A. School of Art & Design Gallery, Perth
- 1998 *Homebrand -Contemporary Australian Ceramics*, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney, NSW  
The Newcastle Ceramic Purchase Award, New castle Regional Art Gallery, NSW (finalist)  
*Demonstrator's Exhibition*, The Victorian Ceramic Festival, Walker St Gallery, Melbourne, VIC  
*Potters and Pots*, Collection from the Ceramic Study Group, Macquarie University Library, Sydney, NSW
- 1995 *Juggling the Elements*, The Manly Museum and Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
*The Sydney Teapot Show*, Innercity Clay Workers Gallery, Glebe, Sydney, NSW  
*Surface Vessels*, Mura Clay Gallery, Melbourne, VIC  
*The Ultimate Gift*, Savode Gallery, QLD
- 1994 *The Austceram Art Award Exhibition*, The Banquet Hall, Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW
- 1996 *Australian Craft of the Surrealism Exhibition*, Crafts Council of Australia, National Gallery of Australia, Queensland Art Gallery, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW  
Fishers Ghost Award, Campbelltown City Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW (finalist)  
The 12<sup>th</sup> National Gold Coast Ceramic Award, Goldcoast City Art Gallery, QLD (finalist)

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\* over 25 group shows from 1982 -1993

### AWARDS

- 2019 Winner, *Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize 2019*, NSW  
Winner, *Muswellbrook Art Prize* (Winner of the Ceramic Prize), Muswellbrook, NSW  
Finalist, *Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize 2019*, Sydney, NSW
- 2010 Finalist, Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award, Gold Coast Art City Art Gallery, QLD
- 2008 Shepparton Ceramic Award, The Poyntzpass Pioneers Award of Merit  
Finalist, Sidney Myer Fund International Art Award
- 2006 Artist in Residence, The National Art School Paris Studio at Cite Des Internationale, Paris, France
- 2005 Winner, The 24<sup>th</sup> Gold Coast International Ceramic Award, Gold Coast Art City Art Gallery, QLD  
Finalist, Hobart Art Prize, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, TAS  
Marketing Grant, NAVA
- 2003 The National Art School Staff Travelling Scholarship
- 2000 Port Hacking Potters Award
- 1997 Finalist, The Newcastle Ceramic Purchase Award
- 1997 The Austceram '94 Ceramic Award  
Finalist, The 12<sup>th</sup> National Gold Coast Ceramic Award
- 1983 Awarded Workshop Development Grant through Crafts Board of the Australia Council

### COLLECTIONS

ArtBank, Sydney; Museums of Applied Art & Sciences, Sydney; Sculpture by the Sea, Snowy Valleys; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Australia Council; Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW; College of Fine Arts, UNSW; Geelong Art Gallery, Vic; Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld; Institut fuer Kuenstlerische Keramik und Glas, Germany; The Perc Tucker Museum, QLD; Manly Museum and Art Gallery, Sydney; Museum fur Kunsthandwerk und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany; National Art School, Sydney; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Taiwan

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University of the Arts, Taipei; Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart; Queensland University of Technology; University of New South Wales; Victorian Ceramic Group; Qantas; Western Australian Art Gallery, Perth; numerous private collections.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2014 *The Condition Report magazine*, Artist Interview, Issue 4, October - December 2014, p. 6 - 9
- 2013 Michael Fitzgerald, 'Open gallery', *Spectrum*, The Sydney Morning Herald, 17 - 18 August  
Sarah Kanowski, 'Gwynn Hanssen Pigott and the place of Australian pottery', *Radio National*, ABC, 20 July 2013  
Ben Carter, 'Merran Esson', *Tales of a Red Clay Rambler*, Podcast
- 2012 John McDonald, 'Outback inspiration', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 June  
Lynne Dwyer, 'Fowlers Gap', *Spectrum*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 - 10 June, p.13  
Fiona McIntosh, 'A potted history', *art out there* blog, 3 May  
James Compton, 'Merran Esson: Not the Way Home', *Artist Profile*, Issue 18, pp.84-85
- 2011 Andrew Livingstone, 'Sustainable Ceramics', *Ceramic Review*, #249, May/June, p.18  
Kim Jeoung-Ah, *Ceramic Arts and Design for a Sustainable Society*, Frolunda Cultural Centre  
Lee Hoim, Celebrating the Year of Friendship between Australia and Korea, Korea 2011, Korean Women's Art Society
- 2009 'NAVA Member Profile: Merran Esson', *National Association for the Visual Arts, NAVA Quarterly*, September  
'Bravura: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Australian Craft', Art Gallery of South Australia, *Art Gallery Magazine*, December
- 2008 Gordon Foulds, 'Containers of Ideas', *Craft Arts International*, Issue 72, pp.29-34

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- 2007 Mughavi Tumker, 'Masterful Creations', *Ceramics Art & Perception*, issue 71  
Brett Adlington, *Glimpse: Inside Gold Coast City Art Gallery's Collection*
- 2006 Noel Bignal, 'Merran Esson at Dence Park', *Ceramic Study Group Newsletter*, #422, June 2007, p.1  
Schmitt, Peter, *Australische Impressionen*, Galerie Rosenhauer, Germany
- 2005 Howard Tanner, 'Love art: Collectors choose their favourite artwork from their personal collection', *Australian Art Market Report*, Issue 19, Autumn, p.28  
Robert Bell, *Transformations: The Language of Craft*, National Gallery of Australia  
Merran Esson, *Common Ground/Contemporary Ceramics*, Delmar Gallery, Trinity Grammar School, April - May, Sydney  
*Collect*, published by the British Crafts Council  
Judy Aderson, Review, Fire the Creative Urge, Gold Coast Weekend Bulletin, *Paradise Magazine*, 8-9 October, p.39  
'24<sup>th</sup> Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award', *Art Monthly*, No.184, October, p.14  
'Second successful year for London crafts fair', Review, *The Art Newspaper*, No.155, February, p.47
- 2004 **Steven Bowers, 'A Survey of a Sense of Place', *Ceramics Art and Perception*. Issue 58, pp.17-24**  
*The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, vol. 43, no. 2  
Jonathon Holmes, 'A Snapshot of visual arts in regional Australia', *Craft Arts International*, no. 61, p.70  
Merran Esson, *The Hollow and the Whole*, Delmar Gallery, Trinity Grammar School, April 29 - May 23, Sydney  
Sue Buckle, 'The Hollow and the Whole - Contemporary Ceramics at the Delmar Gallery', *Journal of Australian Ceramics*, Issue 43 #2, pp.9-10
- 2003 Sue Buckle, 'Exploring the scope of Australasian ceramic art', *Pottery in Australia*, Issue 42 #3, pp.64-67
- 2000 *Craft Arts International*, no. 61 & no. 60

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- Pottery in Australia*, vol. 39, no. 2, 2000; vol. 39, no. 1, vol. 35, no. 1  
Karen Weiss, 'Mura (with bells and whistles)', *Pottery in Australia*, Vol.39, No.2, June, pp.58-60
- 1999 Merran Esson, 'A day in my life - Merran Esson', *Ceramic Study Group Newsletter*, No.314, August, p.9  
Bernadette Mansfield, 'Form, Function and Family: An evening with Merran Esson', *Ceramic Study Group Newsletter*, Issue 344
- 1998 Sue Buckle Ed., *Potters Directory*, Potters Society of Australia, p.54
- 1997 Glenis Israel, *Artwise Visual Arts* 7-10, Jacaranda Wiley  
Jan Guy, *Homebrand*, Ceramics Renaissance and Casula Powerhouse, 1997
- 1996 *Pottery in Australia*, vol. 34, no. 4  
Merran Esson, 'Beyond the Surface', *Pottery in Australia*, Vol 35, No.1, pp.35-37
- 1995 *Pottery in Australia*, vol. 32, no. 2, 1993; vol. 28,  
Chris James, *Juggling the Elements*, Manly Art Gallery and Museum  
Chris James, 'Potters Society of Australia', *Pottery in Australia*, Vol 34, No.4, p.53
- 1994 'Showcase, Merran Esson Starfish', *Pottery in Australia*, Vol.33 No.1, p.3  
Lyle Moar, 'February Workshop Report', *Scottish Potters Association Newsletter*, Summer, 1994, p.6
- 1993 Christopher Allan, 'Embracing Cultural Symbolism', *Ceramics Art & Perception*, Issue 14, pp.71-73  
Janet Mansfield Ed., Merran Esson 'Double Trouble', *Ceramics, Art and Perception*, Issue 12, p.88  
Col Minogue Ed., 'February Workshop with Merran Esson', *Scottish Potters Association Newsletter*, Winter, 1993, cover and p.3
- 1991 Leonard Smith, 'The Sydney Teapot Show', *Pottery in Australia*, Vol.30 No.2, pp.18-20

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- 1989 Janet Mansfield Ed., 'Recent Work, Merran Esson Teapot',  
*Pottery in Australia*, Vol.28, No.1 p.40
- 1988 *Craft Australia*, Summer  
Ken Lockwood Ed., Merran Esson, *Craft Australia*, Summer,  
No.4, p.93
- 1987 *Craft Arts International*, no. 8  
'Lovely to look at, lovely to hold', *Good Housekeeping*,  
March, p.35  
'Containing Concepts', *Handmade*, January/February, p.6
- 1986 *Art and Australia*, vol. 24, no. 2  
*Craft Australia*, Summer
- 1985 *Pottery in Australia*, no. 4
- 1984 Joyce Warren, 'Studio Ceramics' in *Ken Lockwood*, *Craft  
Australia Yearbook*, Craft Council of Australia  
*Luk Versluys, Het Atelier*, Wereld Van 12 Keramisten,  
Belgium

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