

# WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE

From its founding in 1973 the Fremantle Arts Centre (FAC) has been associated with the fundamental and immersive activity of making.

This key point of connection with so much of its audience has for four decades, been fostered through its Learning and Artist in Residence (AIR) programs. FAC understood that participating in making harnessed the positive mindfulness and enjoyment intrinsic to the creative process while valuing traditional craft skills. This philosophical ethos was influenced by the growth and survival of community run arts and crafts organisations in Australia and internationally<sup>[1]</sup>.

The lifeblood of FAC from the beginning was its annual workshop and studio based learning program which encompassed a broad range of arts and crafts workshops in pottery, textiles, enamelling and jewellery. These popular workshops supported emerging, established and visiting makers and extolled the provision and preservation of craft skills in workshop settings<sup>[2]</sup>.

Ceramics and pottery in particular, was the mainstay of the FAC Learning and AIR programs. This focus was in response to the groundswell of local interest in the crafts, prompting investment of resources into the ceramics studio, growing the number of pottery exhibitions conducted each year and increasing the participation of craftspeople in the AIR and Learning programs<sup>[3]</sup>.

FAC has coordinated both short and long term AIR programs including a series of two year craft fellowships (1976-85) and assisted in establishing residencies for international artists. Some of the artists who participated in the FAC AIR program also conducted regular workshops and included WA makers Sandra Black, Greg Crowe, Vera Palfreyman, Maria Philips and Jean Robins. Longstanding tutor and wood-fired potter Stewart Scambler continues to have a significant role and influence in the FAC ceramics learning program.

Arts Access, a groundbreaking FAC program established in 1976 was instrumental to coordinate and deliver a program of fee for service arts and craft workshops to remote and regional communities in WA. Arts Access was an outcome of a FAC and Australia Council partnership and involved the provision of tutors, materials and tools including electric wheels for pottery making, to community venues across WA<sup>[4]</sup>. A selection of pieces of pottery were specifically acquired locally for an Arts Access touring exhibition *Bowls and Bottles* 1986 to include pieces by Sandra Black, Graham Carr, Greg Crowe, Janis Heston, Colleen Pozzi, Jo Ried, Stewart Scambler and Garry Zeck.

It was through the FAC exhibition and AIR programs that pottery and ceramics were acquired directly from participating artists to build upon the holdings of the City of Fremantle Art

Collection. The close links that FAC cultivated with craftspeople at this time fostered generous gifts and opportunities to acquire fine examples of domestic pottery and exhibition ceramics by local potters including Janet Kovesi -Watt, Michiko Love and national and leading international artists such as Gwyn Hanssen Pigott and Shigeo Shiga.

A significant number of pieces for the Collection were purchased through the FAC coordinated Perth International Art Festival and survey exhibitions between 1978 and 1985. These projects provided timely opportunities to purchase examples of the best ceramics from across and beyond our region including ceramics from *New Zealand Pottery* 1979 by Len Castle, Mirek Smisek, Peter Stichbury and Graeme Storm; *British Ceramics* by Walter Keeler and Daphne Carnegie in 1984; and Tony Franks, and David Cohen's ceramics from *Scottish Ceramics* in 1985.

Important examples of Western Australian pottery were acquired through the *Fremantle Market's Invitational Ceramics Award* which was conducted for four years 1983 – 86. Numerous pieces of pottery were acquired through this successful project, showcasing many of the best makers of pottery in Western Australia at the time, including award winning work by Fremantle potter Phillip Douglas and pieces by Mike Calder and Jeff Mincham.

A substantial number of pieces of pottery were acquired directly from artists' studios and through the FAC local and touring exhibitions program, including pieces by Alexander Douglas and Jenny Dawson; who undertook a two year AIR at FAC following a residency in Italy<sup>[5]</sup>.

The Collection was active in acquiring pieces from commercial galleries and community exhibitions an example exhibited here is Pippin Drysale's impressive decorative dish *Landscape II*, which was acquired from the *Community Aid Abroad Craft Fair*, 1988.

Fine examples of Australian studio ceramics were acquired from *Blackfriars Pottery* NSW established by Derek Smith (1976-84) and *Cuppacumbalong Pottery* and craft centre NSW, established in 1975 influenced by potter and mentor Douglas Alexander. Additional items were acquired from the FAC hosted *Great National Coffee Mug Competition* 1981 celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the *Potters Society of Australia*.

The City of Fremantle Art Collection grew rapidly with the establishment of FAC in 1973. It comprises over 1400 artworks including a fine representation of studio pottery, rich in examples by Western Australian and Fremantle based makers. The Collection is the largest municipal art collection in Western Australia and constitutes a community based educational resource and record of those craftspeople who have made a significant and lasting contribution to ceramics in Western Australia.



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CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION GALLERY

9 AUG – 20 SEPT, 2014

[1] Ferenc Kotai (1908-1970) and Bruno Giugliarelli (1908-) taught pottery and sculpture at *Fremantle Technical College* annex from 1954 prior to establishment of FAC at the former Fremantle Lunatic Asylum in 1973

[2] The international Arts and Crafts movement influenced development of FAC and studio pottery in Australia through the writings of Bernard Leach A *Potter's Book* 1940 and Michael Cardew's *Pioneer Pottery* 1969

[3] Fifty two ceramics and pottery exhibitions were conducted at FAC in 10 years 1980-89

[4] Arts Access operated for twenty years (1976-96) and connected FAC with the entire state and ceramics workshops were originally delivered by Sue Brook, John Harold and Robert Vallis

[5] Jenny Dawson undertook two year AIR at FAC following her residency at an Italian factory to learn Majolica technique, for slip caste low fire earthenware

## Check list

Artworks are from the City of Fremantle Art Collection dimensions

are given as height by diameter in centimetres.

CoverPicture: 38. Janet Mansfield (1934-2013).Bottle undated, salt glazed stoneware, 27.8 x 23.2 cm

<b>1. Sandra Black (1950-)</b>	<b>12. Greg Crowe (1953-)</b>	<b>23. Anne Gordon</b>	<b>34. Bela Kotai (1947-)</b>	<b>45. Joan Peglar</b>	<b>56. Stewart Scambler (1949-)</b>
Ritual form I 1986	<i>Botle sphere</i> 1986	<i>Tall form</i> 1981	<i>Vase</i> 1984	<i>Bowl</i> 1975	<i>Small bottle</i> 1986
porcelain white interior with black slip glaze and gold lustre	stoneware clear glaze	dry glazed stoneware	glazed stoneware	stoneware	wood fired natural ash glaze stoneware
6.6 x 7.5 cm	30 x 28.3 cm	63 x 13.5 cm	62 x 36.8 cm	10.8 x 26.4 cm	18 x 11 cm
<b>2. Sandra Black (1950-)</b>	<b>13. Jenny Dawson (1949-)</b>	<b>24. Victor Greenaway (1947-)</b>	<b>35. Janet Kovesi- Watt (1936-)</b>	<b>46. Maria Phillips (1928-)</b>	<b>57. Stewart Scambler (1949-)</b>
<i>Ripple Vessel</i> 2002	<i>Mondrian tea set</i> 1989	<i>Broomhill Pottery mug</i> undated	<i>Stemmed bowl</i> 1975	<i>Jug</i> 1974	<i>Two spherical bottles</i> 1986
porcelain with blue celadon glaze	slip cast earthenware, on glaze decal decoration	glazed stoneware	glazed stoneware	stoneware glazed	wood fired natural ash glaze stoneware
7.5 x 21 cm	various dimensions	<i>Broomhill Pottery lidded jar</i> undated	<i>Teapot</i> 1982	<i>Four mugs</i> c1975	
<b>3. Les Blakebrough (1930-)</b>	<b>14. Jenny Dawson (1949-)</b>	<b>25. Victor Greenaway (1947-)</b>	<b>36. Janet Kovesi- Watt (1936-)</b>	<b>47. Maria Phillips (1928-)</b>	<b>58. Shigeo Shiga (1928-2011)</b>
<i>Coffee pot</i> 1972	<i>Napoli mermalds</i> 1995	glazed stoneware	glazed stoneware	glazed stoneware with banksia decoration	<i>Vase</i> 1976
glazed stoneware	terracotta urn, majolica glaze	8.5 x 7.5 cm	14.6 x 21.3 cm	glazed stoneware	stoneware iron glaze
23 x 18 cm	61 x 34 cm	<b>26. Guy Grey-Smith (1916-1981)</b>	<b>37. Michiko Love (1925-)</b>	<b>48. Colleen Pozzi (1942-)</b>	<b>59. Shigeo Shiga (1928-2011)</b>
<b>4. Sue Brooks</b>	<b>15. John Derner (1949-)</b>	<i>Stemmed bowl</i> 1973	<i>Vase</i> 1976	<i>Salt glazed vase</i> 1989	<i>Slab pot</i> 1978
<i>Large bowl</i> Undated	<i>Lined bottle</i> 1981	decorated terracotta	glazed stoneware	stoneware	stoneware
glazed and decorated stoneware	glazed stoneware	21.3 x 23 cm	19.5 x 16 cm	27.9 x 19 cm	34.9 x 35 cm
9 x 30 cm	28.5 x 25.3 cm	<b>27. Gwyn Hanssen – Pigott (1935-)</b>	<b>38. Janet Mansfield (1934-2013)</b>	<b>49. Joanne (Jo) Reid (1944-)</b>	<b>60. Mirek Smisek (1925-2013)</b>
<b>5. Sue Brooks</b>	<b>16. Alexander Douglas (1945-1991)</b>	<i>Bowl</i> 1989	<i>Bottle</i> undated	<i>Bowl</i> 1986	<i>Wine bottle with stopper</i> c 1979
glazed and decorated stoneware	<i>Cuppacumbalong Pottery plate</i> 1980	porcelain	salt glazed stoneware	porcelain with stains	cobalt glazed stoneware, cane, cork
11.5 x 12.5 cm each	glazed decorated stoneware	10.7 x 22 cm	27.8 x 23.2 cm	lustre coloured gold and black	36.8 x 18.8 cm
<b>6. Michael Calder (1957-)</b>	<b>17. Alexander Douglas (1945-1991)</b>	<b>28. Ron Hemmings</b>	<b>39. Helen Manson</b>	<b>50. Jean Robins</b>	<b>61. Derek Smith (1931-)</b>
<i>Bowl</i> 1985	<i>Cuppacumbalong Pottery mug</i> 1980	<i>Teapot</i> undated	<i>Teapot</i> 1980	<i>Bottle</i> 1974	<i>Blackfriars Pottery mug</i> c1977
stoneware	glazed decorated stoneware	9.5 x10 cm	salt glazed stoneware	dolomite glazed stoneware	glazed stoneware
15 x 42 cm	glazed majolica earthenware	<b>7. Daphne Carnegie (1949-)</b>	<b>40. Anne Mercer (1945-)</b>	<b>51. Jean Robins</b>	<b>62. Penny Smith (1947-)</b>
<i>Lidded jar</i> c1984	red glazed porcelain	<i>Bowl J, II &amp; III</i> 1984	hand built porcelain platter	<i>Calyx</i> 1977	<i>Mix and match – teapot</i> 1985
glazed majolica earthenware	12 x 30.5, 18.5 x 25.2 & 8.7 x 24.1 cm	<b>18. Phillip Douglas (1952-)</b>	<b>41. Jeff Mincham (1950-)</b>	<b>52. Peter Rushforth (1920-)</b>	<b>62. Penny Smith (1947-)</b>
35 x 16.5 cm	red glazed porcelain	<i>Landscapae II</i> 1988	<i>Urn</i> 1983	incised raku stoneware	red rope handle
<b>8. Graham Carr (1949-)</b>	<b>19. Pipin Drysdale (1943-)</b>	<i>Carved pot</i> 1985	<b>42. Milton Moon (1926-)</b>	<b>53. Greg Ryan (1949-)</b>	<b>63. Ian Sprague (1920-1994)</b>
<i>Decorated bowl</i> 1986	porcelain glazed, gold leaf	stoneware celadon glaze	27 x 29.6 cm	iron glazed stoneware	<i>Bottle</i> 1978
white stoneware, matt and dry glazes	10.8 x 58.3 cm	<b>30. Janis Heston (1952-)</b>	<b>43. Ann Murray</b>	<b>54. Bill Samuels (1949-)</b>	<b>63. Ian Sprague (1920-1994)</b>
12.2 x 28 cm	<i>Primal container II</i> 1986	<i>Blue bowl</i> c1984	<i>Bowl</i> Undated	<i>Casserole</i> undated	<b>64. Graeme Storm (1936-)</b>
<b>9. Pam Chapman</b>	<b>20. Stuart Earnshaw (1964-)</b>	<b>31. Shunichi Inoue (1946-)</b>	<b>44. Susan Ostling (1948-)</b>	<b>55. Christopher Sanders (1952-)</b>	<b>64. Graeme Storm (1936-)</b>
<i>Two bowls</i> c1982	raku fired stoneware	glazed stoneware	crackle glazed stoneware	glazed stoneware	glazed stoneware
glazed stoneware	42 x 24 x 25 cm	12.3 x 26.3 cm	with copper & iron spots	22.5 x 27.8 cm	stoneware with purple blue glaze
4.2 x 7 & 3.8 x 6 cm	<b>21. Ivan Englund (1915 - 2007)</b>	<b>32. Walter Keeler (1942-)</b>	<b>45. Ann Murray</b>	<b>56. Bill Samuels (1949-)</b>	<b>64. Gary Zeck (1941-)</b>
<b>10. David Cohen</b>	<i>Incised vase</i> undated	<i>Teapot</i> 1984	<i>Alice's tea set</i> 1980	<i>Casserole</i> undated	<b>65. Rosemary Whitaker (1947-)</b>
<i>Fruit bottle</i> 1985	glazed stoneware	salt glazed stoneware	stoneware and bamboo	stoneware	<i>Casserole dish</i> c1975
dry glazed stoneware	20.5 x 16.5 cm	15 x 20 x 14 cm	teapot, jug and sugar bowl	26.5 x 32.5 cm	glazed stoneware
28 x 23 cm	<b>22. Tony Fowler</b>	<b>33. Bela Kotai (1947-)</b>	<b>46. Maria Phillips (1928-)</b>	<b>57. Stewart Scambler (1949-)</b>	<b>65. Rosemary Whitaker (1947-)</b>
<b>11. Catherine Coomer</b>	<i>Tri-pot</i> 1987	<i>Casserole dish</i> undated	<b>47. Maria Phillips (1928-)</b>	<b>58. Shigeo Shiga (1928-2011)</b>	<b>66. Gary Zeck (1941-)</b>
<i>In remembrance of the passing of the people</i> 2002	raku fired stoneware	glazed stoneware	glazed stoneware	wood fired natural ash glaze stoneware	stoneware with dry glazed, incised, bamboo
incised terracotta with blue and white glaze	25 x 37 cm	16 x 12.5 cm	15.2 x 28.4 x 43.5 cm	42 x 50.5 cm	42 x 50.5 cm