



10 October 2006

## Winner announced 25<sup>th</sup> Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award

### Julie Bartholomew

An unnerving trio of fine porcelain objects has been awarded the 25<sup>th</sup> Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award of \$10,000 with the work subsequently entering the Gold Coast City Art Gallery Collection.

Unnerving because initially they look so seductive – then you see that squashed inside the bag are lips, nose, ears, nipples and feet; squeezed into the pointy shoes are tightly curled toes; and real fingers eerily merge seamlessly into the soft smooth surface of the glove.

*“Casts from actual bodies that make visible wrinkles, veins, folds and imperfections counterpoint the work’s polished veneer of consumerism “ – the artist*

Sydney based artist, Bartholomew, admits to being both fascinated by fashion as well as wishing to critique the global consumer culture that surrounds the creation of desire to purchase and to wear these products. The work comes out of a long-term interest in the body as a site for the expression of social and cultural change and specifically this recent work grew from her experiences in the Australia Council Studio in Tokyo in 2005.

In the media saturated environment of this modern hyper city, she was intrigued at the way in which Western consumer values are impacting on the body imagery of Japanese women and their role in society.

The work is part of a larger installation of life size figures cast in porcelain that also combines projected digital images. That work has now been acquired by Shepparton Regional Art Gallery for their ceramic collection.

Professor Noel Frankham, Head of School of the Tasmanian School of Art, was the Judge and he commented in his speech to the large crowd of over 250 people attending the opening that ;

*“Julie Bartholomew steals the day for me by combining several of my expectations of successful art; a good idea, technical excellence, and accessibility delivered through gentle humour. Julie has recently completed a PhD at the College of Fine Arts in Sydney and she is also a teacher there. She makes us consider identity as she criticises consumerism, giving us the up to the minute designer woman, entirely contained within her ‘labelled’ accessories. The three-part work, I am Louis Vuitton, I am Manolo, I am CoCo, is beautifully crafted, sculptural in scale and form, respectful of material and will make a significant addition to the Gold Coast City Art Gallery collection.”*

Bartholomew has had a number of solo exhibitions and her work is held in public and private collections. She has just been awarded another Australia Council grant to continue this work in China. She will travel to the Gold Coast in 2007 to give a talk about the work.

In recognition that the Gold Coast Ceramic Art Award has reached a milestone 25<sup>th</sup> year, the award this year has been increased from \$5000 to \$10,000.

The following works were also selected for acquisition to the collection and Judge Noel Frankham commented “ *Whiteness has definitely been the success story of the exhibition and prize for me; all but one of the works I’ve selected for prizes and acquisition are white porcelain.*”

With a budget of up to \$5000 Frankham selected the following two works from the 78 on display;



*“ Kenji Uranishi’s three-part observation on architectural form is simply beautiful. With hints of colour in the glazes, it suggests the objectivity and utility of modernism and the sculptural capacity of high-rise buildings.”* Kenji lives in Brisbane and has recently immigrated to Australia from Japan. He studied Ceramics at Nara College of Fine Arts and has been awarded a number of prizes in major Ceramics competitions and Awards in Japan. He is currently an artist in residence at the ANU.

*“On a somewhat lighter note is Diane Buckland’s critique of the ubiquitous mobile phone. Diane, who is a local ceramic artist, has allowed me to indulge a personal frustration, that I’m sure many of us share, the expectation that we’re all available 24 hours a day, in a state of constant accessibility. The inclusion of an Indigenous message stick provides the title of the work, and its irony.”*



**The Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Foundation \$1000 Awards for Excellence are ;**

*“ Jo Wood’s Pleated Trio, three porcelain bottle forms that celebrate the qualities of material and the human touch in the making process. “*

*“ Also beautifully cool, but with an added muted colour is David Pottinger’s, Tall Cylindrical Vessel, which explores the relationship between line, colour and pattern to create the illusion of visual movement. It’s a sophisticated and very elegant work.” .*

The exhibition has been supported by Art Galleries Schubert and The Raptis Group.

**The exhibition continues till the 12 November. All works are for sale with prices ranging from \$280 to \$4000. This is an opportunity to start your own ceramics collection!**

For further information and images contact  
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