

FLEUR SCHELL

Informed by her keen interest in musical instruments, **Fleur Schell** spent the first decade of her artistic career focused on creating objects that emanated sounds. Now, the artist listens closely to the conversations and experiences she shares with her children, drawing on their vivid imaginations to fire her ceramic works.

Though Schell always knew she wanted to be an artist and create things with her hands, it wasn't until she experimented with

ceramics as a teenager, that her fate was glazed. Now, after more than a decade as a practising artist Schell is consistently inspired by the play and ponderings of her children. Watching them helps her to reawaken her own long-forgotten memories. "I feel most creative around my children," says the artist, who is intrigued by the way they watch the world noticing "the wonderment of animals; the excitement of finding precious lost things; the fear of what lurks in dark shadows; feeling minuscule in

a giant world; believing we all have super powers."

The work always begins with a question or phrase inspired by her children. Over six to eight weeks, this core idea morphs into a sketch and is then sculpted into an object or character cast in porcelain that is fired, glazed and re-fired. At that point "the real fun starts," says Schell, "I play for hours marrying found components and raw materials with the porcelain props." In recent times, Schell has been "exploring the relationship between two-dimensional illustrated surface as a backdrop to the porcelain objects."

Through her mixed media work she wishes to bring the wonder of the everyday into focus. The words of **W.B. Yeats** serve as her guiding precept "The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper."

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1 // Fleur Schell, *The Narwhal Caravan*, 2017. Porcelain and mixed media. 44 x 40 x 23cm.

2 // Fleur Schell, *The monster under Harry's Bed* (detail), 2017. Porcelain and mixed media, 43 x 160 x 58cm.

3 // Fleur Schell, *The world is filled with magical things waiting patiently for our senses to grow sharper* (detail), 2017. Porcelain and mixed media, 116 x 135 x 52cm. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST