

Moraig McKenna

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Born: 12/5/1972

Moraig McKenna has been working with clay since 1991, specializing in wood-fired and salt-glazed porcelain and stoneware. She holds a Bachelor of Education from Melbourne University and earned a Master of Arts by Research from Southern Cross University in 2002.

Her contributions to the field have been acknowledged by her peers through her Accredited Professional Membership with Craft ACT. Moraig's work has earned several awards, including the 2024 Doug Alexander Award and the 2019 Art Unlimited Ceramics Award.

She exhibits her work regularly, both in Australia and internationally. Her pieces are featured in public collection of the Canberra Museum and Gallery and Toxichuan Ceramic Art Avenue and private collections in the United States, Singapore, and Australia.

Education

2002 Master of Arts (by research) Southern Cross University, NSW Australia

1999 Bachelor of Arts with Honours (Visual Arts) Southern Cross University, NSW Australia

1995 Bachelor of Education (Ceramics Major) University of Melbourne, Victoria Australia

Solo Exhibitions

2024 Surfacing, Canberra Potters Gallery, ACT.

2018 Fiber and Clay, Narek Galleries, Bermagui NSW

2014 Moraig McKenna, Solo Show, Craft ACT, Civic, ACT.

2012 Canberra Potters Society exhibition award, Crucible showcase, Craft ACT.

2006 Wood fired Porcelain, Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney.

2005 Resonance, Watson Art Centre Act.

2002 Embodied Surface, University Art Museum, Southern Cross University, NSW

Awards

2025 FINALIST Silicious Award for Ceramic Excellence, Ceramic Arts Queensland.

2025 FINALIST Gynn Hansen Piggot Award for Wood Fired Ceramics

2024 WINNER Doug Alexander Award, Canberra Potters Society

2023 FINALIST North Queensland Ceramics Award, Townsville QLD

2019 WINNER Art Unlimited Ceramic Art Award, NSW Australia.

2005 HONOURABLE MENTION 3rd World Ceramic Biennale, Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art, Ichieon World Ceramic Centre, Korea

Group Exhibitions

2025 Still Life, Gallery LNL, Sydney Australia

2024 The Wood Fire Show, Gallery LNL, Sydney Australia

2023 Florescence, Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW.

2021 Flame Path, Noosa Regional Gallery, QLD.

2019 Craft ACT members 'exhibition

2019 Clunes Ceramics Award, Victoria Australia.

2016 Biennial North Qld Ceramic Awards, QLD Australia.

2016 Of Flowers and Tea, With Ian Jones, Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Sydney.

2015 Surrounds, Curated by Patsy Hely and Sarah Rice, Canberra Potters society, ACT.

2015 Red Earth White Heat, Singaporean High Commission, ACT.

2015 Out of the Dragon, Old Saint Luke's Studio, Gundaroo.

2014 Wood fire Show, Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Sydney.

2014 Homage, Narek Galleries, Tanja, NSW.

2014 Porcelain, Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Sydney.

- 2013 Off the square, curated by Peter Haynes, Belconnen Arts Centre.
- 2011 Inside Wood fire, 50 Australian stories Gallery 9, Deloraine, Tasmania.
- 2005 Australian National Wood fire Survey Exhibition Watson Arts Centre, Canberra

International Exhibitions

- 2025 Borders in Flux, Qiumo Gallery, Taoxichuan Art Centre, Jingdezhen, China
- 2023 For Dream, Qiumo Gallery, Taoxichuan Art Centre, Jingdezhen, China
- 2021 Fourth Shanghai International Woodfired Ceramic Festival
Digital Exhibition curated by Marc Leuthold USA
- 2019 Clay with you, Taoxichaun Ceramic Art Avenue Gallery, Jingdezhen, China
- 2018 Behind Image, Beyond Form, Taoxichaun Ceramic Art Avenue Gallery, Jingdezhen, China
- 2017 China Celadon Art Forum and Celadon exhibition, Celadon Art and Culture Week, Ningbo, China.
- 2015 Out of the Dragon, Art 2 Galleries, Singapore
- 2013 Australian High Commission Group Show, Atrium Gallery, Australian High Commission, Singapore
- 2004 The Naked Truth, International Wood fire Survey, Coe College Gallery, Cedar Rapids Iowa USA.

Employment

- 2023 – 2024 Assistant Director, Craft + Design Canberra (Craft ACT)
- 2021 – 2023 Programs Manager, Craft + Design Canberra (Craft ACT)
- 2021 Acting Assistant Director, ACT Historic Places, Canberra Australia
- 2019 – 2021 Public Programs Manager, ACT Historic Places, Canberra Australia
- 2003 – 2005 Sessional Lecturer Ceramics Workshop, ANU School of Art, Canberra Australia
- 2004 Lecturer in Charge Ceramics, Australian Catholic University, Sydney Australia
- 2002 Lecturer Ceramics, Southern Cross University, Lismore Australia

Association Memberships

- Accredited Professional Member (peer reviewed), Craft + Design Canberra (Craft ACT)
- Member, Canberra Potter Society, Member, Australian Ceramics Association

Permanent Collections

- Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra, Australia
- Taoxichuan Ceramic Art Avenue Art Gallery, Jingdezhen, China

Conferences and Lectures

- 2025 Borders in Flux, Taoxichuan International Ceramic Art Centre, Lecture: The Layered Surface; exploring Wood firing and Salt Glazing
- 2019 Clay with You, Taoxichuan International Ceramic Art Centre, Lecture: Developing a Taste for Salt
- 2017 International Celadon conference, Ningbo China, Invited exhibitor.
- 2016 Smoke on the Water, Australian Wood fire conference, Guest Artist.
- 2013 Awaken the Dragon, Ceramics Festival, Singapore. Guest Artist / Ceramics as Art: Carving a space, National Museum of Singapore - Forum panelist.
- 2011 Wood fire Tasmania, Deloraine, Tasmania. Panelist – Aesthetics, Preconference workshop: Making Pots for Wood-firing, Deviot Tasmania.
- 2005 Gundaroo Wood-fire 05, Old Saint Luke's Studio, Gundaroo, NSW. (Co-organiser) Panelist – Wood fired Sculpture and Installation.
- 2004 The Naked Truth, International Wood-fire conference, Coe College, Cedar Rapids Iowa USA. Panelist on Australian Panel \ Convener of Aesthetics Panel.

Publications

- 2007 Jones, David. 2007, Firing, philosophies within contemporary ceramic practice, Crow wood Press, Wiltshire, pp. 79 - 85.
- 2005 McKenna, M. Resonance, Journal of Australian Ceramics, Vol 44, no, p 24–25
- 2002 McKenna, M. Embodied Surface, Pottery In Australia, Vol 41, no.2, p. 44–45.