

CONTACT INFORMATION

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- Website: www.melissabarkerceramics.com

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Nationality: South African
- Languages: English (MT), Afrikaans (VG), German (G)

EDUCATION

2022: MA Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations

UNISA - The University of South Africa

2016 One-year course in Akkadian

NWU - North West University

2015 BA (HONS) Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations

UNISA- The University of South Africa

2013 BA Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations and Anthropology

UNISA- The University of South Africa

1996 - 1999 Belviorpark Swiss Hotel School, Mafikeng

Hotel Management Diploma

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

September 2016 - Current Owner of Melissa Barker Ceramic studio

Company type: Ceramic studio

Position: Owner

June-July 2017 - 2018 Hazor, Israel

Archaeological excavation volunteer and ceramic restoration

June – July 2013 - 2015 Hazor, Israel

Archaeological excavation volunteer with the University of South Africa

PUBLICATIONS

December 2024 Ceramic Review – Gallery of current exhibitions.
Issue 331

August 2023 CLAY FORMES: Contemporary clay from South Africa
ABC Press, Cape town
ISBN 987-0-7974-4

April 2021 Art times - Review

August 2019 Ceramics – Southern Africa
Issue 17/2019, ISSN 2412-5199

NON-PUBLISHED PAPERS

Prepare the water and add the fat. A re-interpretation of the Yale culinary tablet YOS 11 25. (UNISA). Masters Dissertation.

Sacred Marriage ritual of the Sumerians and the Kings that practiced it
Can be viewed at www.academia.edu

AWARDS

2024 Clay Awards Exhibition
Judged by Magdalene Odundo, Janet Deboos, Guangzhen Zhou, Andile Dyalvane, Andre Hess, Ronnie Watt, Elizabeth Perril, Stanis Mbwanga, Digby Hoets, Olivia Barrel

2021 Ceramics South Africa, Western Cape Regionals. Premier Award Winner
Judged by Zizipo Poswa

2019 Ceramics South Africa, Western Cape Regionals. New Signature Winner
Judged by Caroline Wynn

SELECTED RESIDENCIES

October - November 2024, Collaboration and exploratory residency, South Africa. Facilitated by Melissa Barker and British contemporary fine artist, Amy Lee Bird

February - March 2024, Breaking the mould, Contemporary Art residency, South Africa. Facilitated by Polish contemporary ceramic artist, Monica Patuszynska

February – March 2023 Woven, Contemporary Art residency, South Africa. The Potters Place, McGregor. Facilitated by Melissa Barker.

August – September 2020 Nuhatimmu, Ceramic residency, South Africa. IMISO Ceramic studio. Facilitated by Andile Daylvane and Zizipo Poswa

February – March 2020 Rise Residency, France. Facilitated by Dr. Wendy Gers, PH.D. hosted by Lauren Kearns, director of Artist Residency Exchange (IARE)

EXHIBITIONS

2024 ‘Clay Awards’ Rust and Vrede Gallery. Cape Town *Curated by Hennie Meyer, International Academy of Ceramics (IAC) and Rust en Vrede Gallery, Cape Town*

2024 ‘CONTAIN’. Aardklop Art festival
Roots Lifestyle centre. Potchefstroom

2024 Eclectica Contemporary (Various First Thursday open gallery events)
Eclectica Contemporary Gallery. Cape Town

2023 ‘ACT OF FAITH’. Spier Arts Trust
Spier wine farm. Cape Town

2023 ‘Falling’. Gorgeous George Hotel
Cape Town

2023 ‘Different strokes Art Fair’. Clara Anna Fontain
Cape Town

2023 Hermanus fine Arts: ‘Earth, wind and Fire’. Windsor Hotel, Hermanus
Curated by Liz Goates

2023 ‘MUD’. Eclectica Contemporary
Eclectica Contemporary Gallery. Cape Town

2022 Hermanus fine Arts: ‘Dream’. Windsor Hotel, Hermanus
Guest Speaker, Curated by Liz Goates

2021 Ceramics South Africa (Western Cape), Regional Exhibition, Premier Section Winner
Rust and Vrede Gallery. Cape Town

2021 Ceramics South Africa, Invitational Exhibition
Rust and Vrede Gallery. Cape Town

2021 ‘Nature Morte-Still from life’. Rupert Museum
Rupert Museum in collaboration with Eclectica Contemporary

2021 ‘Mad Hatters Tea Party’
Lisa Linnow Gallery. Cape Town

2021 Hermanus fine Arts: ‘African Gold’. Windsor Hotel , Hermanus
Curated by Liz Goates

2021 ‘Freedom equals no fear’

Eclectica Contemporary Gallery. Cape Town

2021 ‘North meets South’. Hussein Salim and Melissa Barker

Eclectica Contemporary Gallery. Cape Town

2021 ‘Earth Bound’.

Eclectica Contemporary Gallery. Cape Town

2020 Ceramics South Africa, Western Cape Regional exhibition, Premier Section

Rust and Vrede Gallery. Judged by Kim Sacks

2020 Hermanus fine Arts: ‘Creative Collection’. Kunsantoor Gallery, Hermanus

Curated by Liz Goates

2020 ‘Anatomy of a pot’. Rust and Vrede Gallery. Cape Town

Curated by Hamlin Jansen van Vuuren

2019 ‘Connected by Fire’. Rust and Vrede Gallery. Cape Town

Curated by Hennie Meyer

2019 ‘Paper Translate’. Gallery One11. Cape Town

Curated by Marita Schneider

2019 Hermanus Fine Arts: ‘Colour in clay’. Windsor Hotel , Hermanus

Curated by Liz Goates

2019 Ceramics South Africa, Western Cape Regionals. New signature Winner

Judged by Caroline Wynn

2018 Turbine Art Fair “Collect”. Johannesburg

Curated by Anthony Shapiro

2018 Spot Market. Cape Town

Curated by Rust and Vrede Gallery

MEDIA

2025 Kwela, KykNET DSTV. Series #25 -January 2025

Recreating my ancient recipe and talking about my journey as an archaeologist and winning in the Clay awards 2024.

CONFERENCES

2022 American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR)

'Prepare The Water And Add The Fat?', A re-interpretation of the Yale culinary tablet YOS 11 25, November 2022

2021 National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA)

Rivers, reflections, reinventions, St Ever, March 17-21, 2021

COMMISSIONS

2017 National Geographic Documentary series: Origins

Made replica cooking and smelting pots as well as ceramic kitchen equipment from the Lydian period (1200-546 BC)

EXCAVATIONS

2018 Season, Hazor excavations. Directed by Prof Amnon Ben Tor and co-directed by Shlomit Bechar

Assisted in the ceramic restoration of the site

2017 Season, Hazor excavations. Directed by Prof Amnon Ben Tor and co-directed by Shlomit Bechar

Assisted in the ceramic restoration of the site

2015 Season, Hazor excavations. Directed by Prof Amnon Ben Tor and co-directed by Shlomit Bechar

Assisted in the ceramic restoration of the site

2014 Season, Hazor excavations. Directed by Prof Amnon Ben Tor and co-directed by Sharon Zuckerman

Volunteer with the University of South Africa

2013 Season, Hazor excavations. Directed by Prof Amnon Ben Tor and co-directed by Sharon Zuckerman

Volunteered with the University of South Africa