

## Curriculum Vitae: Prue Venables

July 2016

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The procedures and intelligence of making hold my attention.

I delight in the relationships that spring and develop between objects as they stand together like elements of musical harmony. From the shadows that form between them to the implied movements across spaces, they dance.

An exploration of technical invention with origins in both studio and industrial spheres has resulted in handles fired separately, suspended, to be joined later. Such components extend formal and material possibilities and enliven my understanding of the porcelain I thought I knew so well. Objects now emerge, to challenge and enable fresh rhythms, different energies and spatial interactions. A final deceptive simplicity emerges.

*“This work so artfully combines stillness and a sense of risk, of fragility. Sometimes it is a single object – a pierced ladle with a precariously long stem, perhaps, or a scoop with an elegant, daring, ribbon-like handle, that surprises and then calms, Then there are those seemingly arbitrary couplings or slightly perverse groupings that quietly and insistently demand a shift in our perception. Indeed they all were once, in the making process, exceedingly fragile; needing, before and during both bisque and high temperature reduction firing, to be propped up or supported upside down and fired on porcelain trays or setters: carefully, patiently, slowly, surely, crafted. But now, strong, dense, confident, beautiful - to be used, to be held.*

*I hope you see these pots when the sun is out. They quicken with light, The pale objects are softly luminous and translucent, while the dark aubergines and blacks glow satiny rich, their rims reflecting.”*

**Gwyn Hanssen Pigott, 2005**

### Education:

1995: MA, Fine Art - Ceramics, RMIT University, Melbourne  
1981-1983: Harrow Diploma of Studio Pottery, Harrow College of Art, London.  
1971-1974: BSc (Hons) Zoology, Melbourne University.

### Selected books and digital publications:

The Pot Book, Edmund deWaal  
The Harrow Connection;  
Slips and Slipware, Anthony Phillips (Batsford) - featured artist;  
Contemporary Porcelain, Peter Lane (Craftsman House).  
Masters of Their Craft, Norris Ioannou (Craftsman House).  
Design Sourcebook - Ceramics, Edmund de Waal (New Holland)  
Functional Pottery Robin Hopper (Krause Pub.)  
Shards Garth Clark on Ceramic Art  
The Masters Porcelain  
Video to accompany Freestyle exhibition  
Freestyle book  
Smartworks book

### Awards:

2016 Australia Council Development Grant  
Asialink residency, The Pottery Workshop, Jingdezhen  
2015 First Prize, Clunes Ceramic Award  
Purchase Award, Manningham Ceramics Competition

- 2014 Finalist, Victorian Craft Award, Melbourne  
 2014 Finalist, Officine Saffi Project , Open to Art, Milan, Italy  
 2012 Arts SA Residency award Jingdezhen, China  
 2011 Australia Council Skills and Arts Development Grant  
 2009 Arts Victoria grant to attend exhibitions in Taiwan and Denmark  
 2008 Australia Council Grant New Work  
 2007 Honourable Mention WOCEF, Korea  
 Elected member, International Academy of Ceramics  
 President Craft Victoria  
 2006 Fellow Royal Society of Arts, UK  
 2004 One month residency at Oribe Design Centre, Gifu, Japan to design  
 for production by Yamai China Co. and Yamama China Co.  
 2003 Australia Council Grant Development  
 Third Prize, Jan Ken Pon, World Design Comp., New York, Japan  
 2002 Arts Victoria- Grant - exhibition at Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York  
 Craft Victoria- Grant - exhibition at Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York  
 Honourable Mention - International Ceramics Comp., Mino, Japan.  
 2001 Hermanns Art Award - Second Prize  
 Australia Council Project Grant - New Work  
 Australia Council Grant - Ceramics Millenium Conference  
 Amsterdam  
 1997 Alice Craft Acquisition Award  
 Townsville Ceramics Acquisition  
 1996 Australia Council - Project Grant  
 Arts Victoria Grant - Arts 21 International Export, Touring Program  
 1995: Bathurst Art Purchase Award.  
 Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award - Premier Award.  
 Nillumbik Art Award  
 Honourable Mention - International Ceramics Competition, Mino,  
 Japan.  
 15th National Craft Award, Northern Territory.  
 James Cook University Ceramics Award.  
 1994: Second Prize - Austceram Ceramic Art Award, Sydney.  
 Australia Council - Project Grant  
 1992: Two Honourable Mentions - International Ceramics Competition,  
 Mino, Japan.  
 1989: First Prize - Cup competition - Arts and Crafts Society of Victoria.  
 1988: Crafts Council, UK - Photography Grant  
 1986: Product of the Show -Direct Design Show, London  
 1984-1985: Crafts Council, UK - Grant to set up Pottery Studio and  
 Maintenance Allowance for one year.  
 1981-1983: Professional Classes Aid Council Grant;  
 Windsor and Newton Art Prize

**Selected Collections:**

Museum of Fine Art, Houston, Texas  
 Art Gallery of Western Australia  
 Art Gallery of South Australia  
 Fuping Museum, China  
 Ballarat Fine Art Gallery

Bendigo Art Gallery  
 Castlemaine Fine Art Gallery  
 Newcastle Art Gallery  
 Hermanns Art Award Collection  
 Bathurst Art Gallery  
 Deakin University  
 Fletcher Challenge Collection  
 Nillumbik Shire Council  
 R.M.I.T. University  
 Shepparton Art Gallery  
 Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery  
 Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory  
 Powerhouse Museum, Sydney  
 James Cook University  
 Hamilton Art Gallery  
 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
 Queensland Art Gallery  
 Queensland University of Technology  
 Craft Council of the Northern Territory, Alice Springs Division  
 Perc Tucker Regional Gallery  
 University of Southern Queensland  
 National Gallery of Victoria  
 National Museum, Auckland, New Zealand  
 Plus many private collections in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, UK,  
 USA, Canada, Japan.

**Selected Solo Exhibitions:**

2013 Beaver Galleries, ACT  
 Jam Factory Contemporary Craft and design, SA  
 NGV Australia, Special feature display  
 2010 Moss Green Gallery, Melbourne  
 2007 Rex Irwin Fine Art, Sydney  
 2006 Christine Abrahams Gallery  
 2005 Rex Irwin Fine Art, Sydney  
 Galerie Besson, London  
 2003 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne  
 2002 Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York  
 2001 Oxford Gallery, UK  
 1999 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne  
 Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York  
 1998 Masterworks Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand.  
 Alpha House Gallery, Dorset, UK.  
 1997 Christine Abrahams Gallery, Melbourne.  
 1996 Studio COM. Tachikichi Corporation, Kyoto, Japan.  
 1995 Craft Victoria.  
 1993: Jam Factory Gallery, Adelaide.  
 1984 - 1989 Nottingham Castle Museum, Nottingham.  
 Oriol 31 Gallery, Newtown, Powys.  
 Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne.

**Selected Group Exhibitions and Galleries:**

- 2016 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 'Dark Forms'
- 2015 Marsden Woo Gallery, London  
Of National Significance, Sturt Craft Centre, Mittagong NSW  
Olsen Irwin Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 Melbourne Now, NGV  
Moss Green, Melbourne Important Exhibiton of Australian Ceramics  
Finalist, Officine Saffi Project , Open to Art, Milan, Italy
- 2013 Thrown, NGV Australia  
On the Table: Still lives, Olsen Irwin, Sydney  
Melbourne Now, NGV  
Porcelain, a measure of the material, Devon Guild, UK  
Jam Factory 40th anniversary touring exhibition
- 2012 Tradition and Innovation, 50 years of Harrow, CAA, London
- 2011 Finalist, Alcorso 2011 Ceramics Competition, Hobart.  
International featured artist, Contemporary Applied Arts, London  
Rex Irwin, Sydney  
Museum of Fine Art, Houston, USA  
Mint Museum, North Carolina, USA
- 2010 Ting til Faeles, Ann Linnemann studio gallery, Copenhagen  
Korero and Hui Hua Taiwan Ceramics Biennale, Yingge Ceramics  
Museum, Taiwan
- 2009 The Collectors, Khai Lieu, Adelaide  
Pots for Light, Galerie Besson, London  
Jingdezhen International Ceramic fair, China
- 2008 Tablewares an international Collection, Rex Irwin Art Dealer  
Freestyle, Triennale di Milano, Italy  
Fuping Museum, China  
NGV Permanent collection  
Porcelain in contemporary Discourse, Shanghai, China  
Bendigo Art Gallery
- 2006 Finalist, 4th World Ceramic Biennale 2007, Korea  
Judaica, Jewish Museum, Melbourne  
Smartworks, Design and the Handmade, Powerhouse Museum,  
Sydney
- 2006 Collect, Victoria and Albert Museum, London  
Freestyle, Melbourne Museum  
Madonna del Rosario, Wollongong Art Gallery  
Classic and Contemporary Ceramics, Galerie Besson, London  
Rex Irwin Fine Art, Sydney  
SOFA Chicago, with Galerie Besson
- 2005 Table Manners Contemporary International Ceramics Crafts Council,  
London  
Small is Beautiful Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh  
Hobart Art Prize
- 2004 Heresy: the secret language of materials Craft Victoria  
Still Life, Anna Bibby Gallery, Auckland, NZ  
Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney  
Object Gallery, Sydney  
Jan Ken Pon World Design Competition, Gifu City, Japan

- 2003 Manly Art Gallery, Sydney  
World Ceramic Exhibition, Steninge Slott Castle, Sweden  
Jan Ken Pon World Design Competition, New York
- 2002 Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, USA  
SOFA, Chicago  
SOFA, New York  
Rex Irwin Fine Art, Sydney
- 2001 Sotheby's, London Contemporary Decorative Arts Selling Exhibition  
Contemporary Applied Arts, London - featured international artist  
Barrett Marsden Gallery, London  
Hermanns Award, Sherman Galleries, Sydney  
Alpha House Gallery, Dorset, UK  
Powerhouse Museum, Sydney  
Sybaris Gallery, Michigan, USA  
International 20th Century Arts Fair, New York  
'International Ceramics Selection' - Steninge Slott Kulturcenter, Sweden  
Sybaris Gallery, Michigan, USA International Infusion'  
Gallery Marianne Heller, Heidelberg, Germany  
Australian contemporary Art Fair Melbourne  
Art Palm Beach 20th Century Fine Art Fair
- 2000 International Asian Art Fair, New York  
20th Century at Olympia, London  
Grosvenor House Art and Antiques Fair, London  
The International Fine Art Show, New York  
Hong Kong Arts Centre  
Beverly Hills International Art Fair
- 1999 Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Japan  
SOFA - New York  
International Porcelain, Strasbourg, France  
Artistic Australia - Japan  
Hobart Art Prize  
Barret Marsden Gallery, London
- 1998: Triennale de la Porcelaine Nyon - Suisse  
Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, Auckland, New Zealand.  
SOFA - Chicago  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 1997: Galerie Handwerk, Munich.  
Aurora - Pakistan : Karachi, Islamabad  
Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, Auckland, New Zealand.  
Aurora - Bangladesh: Dakka.  
Kunstgewerbemuseum- Dresden.
- 1996: Shepparton Art Gallery.  
Alpha House Gallery, UK.  
Aurora -Seoul Arts Centre, Korea.  
Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, Auckland, New Zealand.
- 1995: Mino International Ceramics Festival, Mino, Japan.  
Lauraine Diggins - Australian Decorative Arts Survey.
- 1994: Ether Ohnetitel, Craft Collectors Circle.  
Colin and Cecily Rigg Award, National Gallery of Victoria.

- 1992: Contemporary Applied Arts, London.  
 Mino International Ceramics Festival, Mino, Japan.  
 1991: Shepparton Art Gallery.

### Teaching and related Experience:

- 2012-present Slow Clay Centre, Melbourne,  
 Private mentorships and apprentice supervision
- 2012 Presenter, Subversive clay on education, Adelaide
- 2011 Presenter, Red Conference on Collaboration, COFA, NSW  
 Keynote speaker. Ceramics Festival. Alice Springs, NT  
 Judge, VitriFY 2012 - Alcorso National Ceramics Competition
- 2010 -2012 Creative Director (Part Time), Ceramics Studio, Jam Factory  
 Contemporary Craft and Design, Adelaide
- 2008 Seminar and Workshop of International Cultural Creative Industry  
 Craft, Material and Innovation National Taiwan University of Arts.  
 Lecturer and workshop leader.  
 Lecture and tutorials, Graduate Institute of Applied Arts, Tainan  
 National College of the Arts, Tainan, Taiwan.
- 2007 Ceramics Coordinator, Senior Lecturer, RMIT University (0.5 time  
 fraction)  
 Konkuk University, Seoul, Korea  
 Sydney University  
 National Art School, Sydney  
 Object Gallery, Sydney
- 2006 Ceramics Coordinator, Senior Lecturer, RMIT University (0.5 time  
 fraction)  
 Royal College of Art, London  
 Artist Talk, NGV International, Under the Influence - Gwyn Hanssen  
 Pigott
- 2005 Lecture University of the Third Age
- 2004 Lecture Artists in conversation, CAE Melbourne
- 2003 Konstfack School of Art and Design, Stockholm, Sweden  
 University of Westminster, London, UK  
 Royal College of Art, London, UK  
 Bath University, London, UK  
 Guldagergaard Ceramics Centre, Denmark
- 2002 Lecture, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery
- 2000 Lecturer, Monash University - Ceramics
- 1999 Lecture - Artists talk about inspiration - Sixth Australian  
 Contemporary Art Fair
- 1999 Masters assessment, Monash University  
 Workshop - The Persuasive Object - Unitec - Auckland, New Zealand  
 Lecture - Amalgamated Arts Ballarat - Development of my work  
 Lecture - Australian Contemporary Art Fair - 'On Inspiration'
- 1997 Lecturer School of Fine Art, Lahore, Pakistan
- 1993 - 1996 Lecturer, Melbourne University - Ceramics, Education;
- 1993 - 2007 Lecturer, R.M.I.T. - Fine Art - Ceramics.  
 Festival in Ceramics - Victorian Ceramic Group

- 1991 - 1993 International Workshop, Canberra School of Art, ACT  
External Examiner, Melbourne University Institute of Education, Ceramics.
- 1989 - 1993 Teacher in Ceramics, (0.6 time)-School of Mines and Industries, Ballarat.  
Visiting lecturer: RMIT, Fine Art - Ceramics; RMIT, Ceramics Summer School; Melb. Univ. Inst. of Education; Victoria College; Ballarat Ceramic Group; Geelong Ceramics Group.
- 1984-1989: Guest Lecturer - Harrow College of Higher Education -Studio Pottery Course, London.
- 1979-1989: Inner London Education Authority - pottery classes for children and adults.

**Curating:**

- 2015 Welcome to Table, Castlemaine Arts Festival
- 2013 Australian Ceramics Exhibition, Moss Green Gallery, Melbourne
- 2012 Directors Choice, Gallery 2, JamFactory Contemporary Craft and Design, SA
- 2009 Tablewares, an International Collection, Rex Irwin Art Dealer, Sydney
- 2006 Celebration, Manly Art Gallery, Sydney

**Judge:**

- Alcorso Award 2012  
Trudie Alfred Bequest Scholarship 2012

**Residencies:**

- 2016 Pottery workshop, Jingdezhen, China
- 2012 Pottery workshop, Jingdezhen, China
- 2013 Pottery workshop, Jingdezhen, China