

SABBIA



Dr Cathy Franzi is an accomplished ceramic artist with an interdisciplinary practice in ceramics and botanical sciences. Her extensive knowledge of Australian plants and ecosystems infuse her work, her aim being to represent each plant's character in a graphic and expressive style. Printmaking inspires her approach to imagery on the clay surface, experimenting and adapting ceramic techniques to reference relief, etching and screen prints.

Botanical research is fundamental to the integrity of Franzi's work, informed by her first degree in science and her ongoing engagement with botanists through volunteer work with the National Seed Bank and during artist residencies. In 2015 she was awarded a PhD from the ANU School of Art & Design, the culmination of four years of intense research into the intersection of studio ceramic practice, botanical science and printmaking.

Franzi's work is held in national and international public collections including Grassi Museum of Applied Arts in Leipzig, Germany, Shepparton Art Museum, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery and Manly Art Gallery & Museum. She is the recipient of multiple grants including from the Australia Council for the Arts, a former President of The Australian Ceramics Association and is a lecturer at the ANU.

The inspiration leading to Natura came about during a residency at Cairns Botanic Gardens in September 2024. The tropical plants and environment of North Queensland is a new area of research in my practice, and I delighted in the opportunity to explore wet tropical rainforests, beach dune ecosystems, mangrove forests of the Daintree and the cool river forests of Mount Bartel Frere. The works capture textures and colours that caught my eye as I tried to make sense of the lush walls of green. I am grateful to Cairns Regional Council for the artist in residency program located in the beautiful botanic gardens to think and draw, the Australian Tropical Herbarium to examine specimens up close, and to financial support from the ACT government through artsACT.

Cathy Franzi, 2025





1. *Northern Banksia*, 2025

porcelain, sgraffito
515 h x 200 w x 190mm d



2. *Firewheel Tree*, 2025

porcelain, sgraffito
470 h x 200 w x 195mm d



3. *Bush Hibiscus*, 2025

porcelain, sgraffito
410 h x 185 w x 180mm d



4. *Golden Parrot Tree*, 2025

porcelain, sgraffito
360 h x 225 w x 210mm d



5. *Cockatoo Apple*, 2025

porcelain, sgraffito
405 h x 175 w x 160mm d



6. *Straits Rhododendron*, 2025

porcelain, sgraffito
475 h x 200 w x 200mm d



7. *Thin Pencil Orchid*, 2025

porcelain, sgraffito
455 h x 175 w x 170mm d



8. *Queensland Tree Waratah*, 2025

porcelain, sgraffito
345 h x 290 w x 175mm d



9. *Red Beech*, 2025

porcelain, sgraffito
345 h x 260 w x 200mm d



10. *Moreton Bay Chestnut*, 2025

porcelain, sgraffito
460 h x 225 w x 220mm d



Cathy Franzi's *Natura* solo exhibition at Sabbia, May 2025 - Interior 1

Cathy Franzi *Natura*

14 May - 7 June 2025





Cathy Franzi's *Natura* solo exhibition at Sabbia, May 2025 - Interior 3



Cathy Franzi's *Natura* solo exhibition at Sabbia, May 2025 - Interior 4

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14



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14 May - 7





Cathy Franzi's *Natura* solo exhibition at Sabbia, May 2025 - Interior 10

