

# LON GALLERY

136a Bridge Road  
Richmond, Vic, 3121  
Tel +61 (0) 400 983 604  
Wed - Sat, 12:00 - 5:00  
[www.longallery.com](http://www.longallery.com)

## Stephen Benwell

Lives and works in Melbourne/Naarm

Born in Melbourne in 1953, Stephen Benwell is amongst Australia's most distinguished ceramicists and was honoured with a retrospective survey of his work at Heide Museum of Modern Art in 2013. In the same year, Benwell was selected to exhibit in Melbourne Now, the National Gallery of Victoria's survey of contemporary creative practice. Benwell has been the recipient of the Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Award, has been a finalist in the Hobart Art Prize, the Fletcher Jones Art Prize and in 2009 was awarded the Inaugural Deakin University Small Sculpture Award and an Australia Council Visual Arts Board New Work Grant.

Stephen Benwell received a Diploma of Art from the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne in 1974, a Diploma of Education from the Melbourne State College in 1976 and received a MFA from Monash University in 2005. The artist has travelled extensively and undertook a studio residency at the Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris in 1984–1985. His work is regularly exhibited in Australia and overseas and is held in a large number of private and public collections including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, the National Gallery of Australia, The National Gallery of Victoria, The Art Gallery of South Australia and The Art Gallery of Western Australia.

## Education

1974 Diploma of Art, Victorian College of the Arts  
1976 Diploma of Education, Melbourne State College  
2005 Master of Fine Art, Monash University

## Solo Exhibitions

2022 Queer Remains: 1970 - 2022, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
2019 ceramics and paintings, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
2018 Little Heroes: Paintings and Ceramics by Stephen Benwell, The Vivian, Matakana, New Zealand  
Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Stephen Benwell's Studio, St Kilda  
2017 Red Sails: recent ceramics, paintings and bronzes, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
2015 Roman holiday: paintings, statues and vases, Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney

- 2014 April in Paris: Artist's Books and Ceramics, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
3 Vases, 136 Johnston St: A Chapter House Lane Project, Melbourne
- 2013 Stephen Benwell: Beauty, Anarchy, Desire - A Retrospective, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
- 2012 Stephen Benwell, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide  
Walking to Oracles: New Paintings and Ceramics, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2010 New Ceramics, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2007 Recent Works, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2005 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
The Impassioned Shepherd, The Faculty Gallery, Monash University, Melbourne
- 2002 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2001 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1998 George Gallery, Melbourne
- 1997 George Gallery, Melbourne
- 1996 Craftspace, Sydney
- 1995 Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 1993 Craft Victoria, Melbourne
- 1992 Gallery TAO, Tokyo, Japan  
Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1991 Garry Anderson Gallery, Sydney
- 1991 Powell Street Graphics, Melbourne
- 1990 Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1988 Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
- 1987 Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
- 1986 Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston  
Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1985 Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
- 1984 Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
- 1983 Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne
- 1982 Distelfink Gallery, Melbourne
- 1981 Crafts Council Gallery, Sydney  
Profile Gallery, Melbourne
- 1980 Jam Factory, Adelaide
- 1979 Craft Centre, Melbourne
- 1977 Craft Centre, Melbourne
- 1975 Craft Centre, Melbourne

## Group Exhibitions

- 2023 \_islands of desire\_, Kunstforum Solothurn, Solothurn, Switzerland  
Spring1883, The Hotel Windsor, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
Fantastic forms, Bundanon Museum, Illaroo, NSW
- 2022 Thinking Through Pink, Woollongong Art Gallery, Sydney  
Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Woollahra Gallery, Sydney  
The Sun at Midnight, Hellenic Museum, Melbourne  
Blue Chip XXIV: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
Queer: Stories from the NGV Collection, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

- Blue Chip XXIV: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2021 Clay Dynasty, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
- 2019 National Treasures: Contemporary Ceramics, The Vivian, Matakana, New Zealand
- Blue Chip XXI: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2018 All our relations, Arts Project Australia, Melbourne
- Chaos & Order - 120 years of collecting at RMIT, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
- 2017 The Unflinching Glaze, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales
- Sydney Contemporary, Niagara Galleries, Carriageworks, Sydney
- Blue Chip XIX: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- Recent Acquisitions: Port Phillip City Collection 2015-2016, The Gallery, St Kilda Town Hall
- 2016 Contempottery, Mailbox Art Space, Melbourne
- Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Woollahra Council, Sydney
- Quiddity, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
- OVERUNDERSIDEWAYS DOWN, Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney
- Blue Chip XVIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2015 Benwell/Halpern, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton, Victoria
- group show, Chapter House Lane, Melbourne
- Melbourne Blue Chip XVII: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- DADA Lives!, Hatch Contemporary Arts Space, Ivanhoe, Victoria
- 2014 (small) GEMS, Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney NSW
- Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- Blue Chip XVI: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- The Gathering II, Wangaratta Art Gallery, Victoria
- Important exhibition of Australian Ceramics, a tribute to Janet Mansfield Oam (1934-2013), Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria
- Australia-Korea Invitational Ceramic Exhibition, Hanyang University Museum, Seoul, South Korea
- 2013 Melbourne Now, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- Diorama, Wollongong City Gallery, New South Wales
- Tenements of Wonder, Greenwood Street Project, Melbourne
- 2012 Subversive Clay, 2012 Australian Ceramics Triennale, Light Square Gallery, Adelaide
- Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- Smash Hits: '80s and '90s ceramic from the Collection, Shepparton Art Museum, Victoria
- Blue Chip XIV: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2011 Blue Chip XIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2010 Muster: A Round Up of Works from the Stockroom, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Award Finalists' Exhibition, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
- Hobart Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
- Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- Fletcher Jones Art Prize Finalists' Exhibition, Geelong Gallery, Victoria
- 2009 Bravura: 21st Century Australian Craft, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award Finalists' Exhibition, Deakin University Art Gallery, Melbourne
- Auckland Art Fair, New Zealand
- 2008 Australian Ceramic Stories, Dubbo Regional Gallery, New South Wales
- 2006 Surface Connections, Manningham Gallery, Victoria

- Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne  
 A Secret History of Blue and White, Vietnam Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi and touring Australian Contemporary, SOFA, Navy Pier, Chicago  
 Australian Glass and Ceramic Artists, Galerie Ursula Rosenhauer, Goettingen, Germany  
 Crust: Examining Artist's Approaches to Clay Surfaces, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Queensland and touring
- 2005 Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney 2004 Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney  
 Sidney Myer International Ceramic Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria  
 The Victorian Connection, Ceramic Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2003 Changing Surfaces, Shepparton Art Gallery, Shepparton, Victoria  
 Hyper-crafting, Faculty Gallery, Faculty of Art & Design, Monash University, Melbourne
- 2002 Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2000 Craft from Scratch: 8th Triennale (Australia and Germany), Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt; Customs House, Sydney; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 1999 Drawn in Form, Brisbane City Art Gallery, Brisbane  
 Sidney Myer International Ceramic Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
- 1996 Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
- 1995 Fletcher Challenge Award, Auckland  
 Australian Art 1940-1990, Museum of Fine Arts, GIFU  
 Delinquent Angel, Muso Internazionale delle Ceramiche, Faenza, Italy  
 Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
- 1994 The Art of the Object, Craft Australia, Sydney  
 The Rigg Award, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
 Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
- 1993 Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
- 1992 The National Craft Award, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
 The Ninth R.M Ansett Art Award, Hamilton Art Gallery, Tasmania  
 The Market, Kitsch and Cultural Production, Craft Victoria, Melbourne
- 1992 Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
- 1991 The Woven Language, Victorian Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne
- 1990 Stephen Benwell and David Potter: Survey Exhibition, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria and National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 1989 Creating Australia, Queensland Art Gallery and touring nationally  
 Perth Crafts Triennial, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth  
 Australian Decorative Arts 1985-1988, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 1987 Ceramic Showpieces from the Permanent Collection, Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria
- 1985 Quatre Artistes Australiens, Australian Embassy, Paris
- 1984 Australian Decorative Arts: The Past Ten Years, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
 Mayfair Ceramic Award, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
- 1982 Fletcher Brownbuilt Pottery Award, Auckland  
 Canberra Festival Craft Prize, Griffin Gallery, Canberra
- 1980 Recent Ceramics: An Exhibition from Australia', touring Great Britain and Europe  
 Third Mayfair Ceramic Award, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne 1978 Australian Clay, Canada, U.S.A  
 Second Mayfair Ceramic Award, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne
- 1977 35th Concorso Internazionale Delle Ceramiche D'Arte, Faenza, Italy
- 1976 Wood and Clay, Australia and New Zealand

1975 Craft Victoria '75, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

## Grants and Awards

2022 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Woollahra Gallery (finalist)  
2020 The Peter O'Callaghan QC Portrait Collection commission  
Alfred Deakin, Victorian Bar commission  
2010 Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Award, Shepparton Art Gallery  
2009 Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award, Deakin University Art Gallery  
Australia Council Visual Arts Board New Work Grant  
2007 Monash Graduate Scholarship  
1999 Friends of Shepparton Art Gallery Award, Shepparton Art Gallery  
1998 Australia Council Grant  
1996 Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery  
1995 Bathurst Art Purchase Award  
Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery  
1994 Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery  
1993 Fellowship Award, Australia Council  
1992 Sidney Myer Award, Shepparton Art Gallery  
1990 Gold Coast City Art Gallery Art Award  
1989 Victorian Tapestry Workshop commission  
1988 Melbourne City Council commission  
St Kilda Art Acquisition Award  
1987 Box Hill Art Award  
Australia Council Grant  
1984 Australia Council Grant  
1983 Australia Council Grant  
1982 Australian National Gallery commission  
1981 Diamond Valley Art Award  
Canberra Festival Craft Prize  
1980 Australia Council Grant Mayfair Ceramic Award  
1976 Australia Council Grant

## Publications

Peter Yule, VIC BAR: A history of the Victorian Bar, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2022  
Blue Chip XXIV: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2022  
Queer: Stories from the NGV Collection, exhibition catalogue, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2022  
Campbell Thomson and Siobhan Ryan, The Alfred Deakin bust by Stephen Benwell, Victorian Bar News, Issue 168, 2020/21  
Blue Chip XXI: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2019



Recent Acquisitions: Port Phillip City Collection 2015-2016, exhibition catalogue, The Gallery, St Kilda Town Hall, 2016, pp.14-15

Red Sails: recent ceramics, paintings and bronzes, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne 2017

Blue Chip XIX: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2017

Blue Chip XVIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2016 group show, exhibition catalogue, Chapter House Lane, Melbourne, 2015

Roman holiday: paintings, statues and vases, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2015

Blue Chip XVII: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2015

Blue Chip XVI: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2014

Australian-Korea Invitational Ceramic Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Hanyang University Museum, South Korea, 2014

Important exhibition of Australian Ceramics, a tribute to Janet Mansfield Oam (1934-2013), exhibition catalogue, Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne, 2014

Max Delany, Fleur Watson et al., Melbourne Now, exhibition catalogue, National Gallery of Victoria, 2013

Melbourne Now Exhibition Guide, exhibition catalogue, National Gallery of Victoria, 2013

Jason Smith, Stephen Benwell: Beauty, Anarchy, Desire – A Retrospective, exhibition catalogue, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2013

Diorama, exhibition catalogue, Wollongong Art Gallery, NSW, 2013

Janne Faulkner & Harley Anstee, Using Australian Colour, Hardie Grant Books, 2013

Blue Chip XIV: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2012

Blue Chip XIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2011

Danny Lacy, 'Stephen Benwell: The Significance of Rubble', 2010

Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Award, exhibition catalogue, Shepparton Art Gallery, 2010

Kim Dickey, 'Landscapes of Still Life', 2010 Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Award, exhibition catalogue, Shepparton Art Gallery, 2010

Stephen Benwell: New Ceramics, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2010

Dr. Julia Jones, 'Australian Ceramic Stories', Australian Ceramic Stories, exhibition catalogue, Dubbo Regional Gallery, NSW, 2008

Luke Morgan, 'Sighing over ruins: Stephen Benwell', Stephen Benwell Recent Works, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2007

Craft from Scratch: 8th Triennale (Australia and Germany), Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, 2000

Christopher Menz, Australian Decorative Arts: 1820s–1990s, Art Gallery Board of South Australia, Adelaide, 1997

Stephen Rainbird, 'Selected Australian Works', Queensland University of Technology Art Collection, 1995

Grace Cochrane, The Crafts Movement in Australia: A History, NSW University Press, Sydney, 1992

Peter Timms, 'Revealing and Concealing', Stephen Benwell and David Potter: Survey Exhibition, Shepparton Art Gallery, 1989

Daniel Thomas ed., Creating Australia 200 Years of Art: 1788 – 1988, International Cultural Corporation of Australia, Art Gallery Board of South Australia, 1988

John McPhee, Australian Decorative Arts in the Australian National Gallery, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 1982

## Press and Reviews

'OVERUNDERSIDEWAYS DOWN', The Journal of Australian Ceramics, vol. 55, no. 1, April 2016  
Sydney Contemporary: Niagara Galleries, Melbourne, Vault, no. 11, 2015, p. 61  
Kimberley Chandler, 'Stephen Benwell: Beauty, Anarchy, Desire – A Retrospective'. Ceramics: Art and Perception, no. 98, 2014, pp. 94-97  
Robert Nelson, 'Lumps of clay shaped into the past', The Age, 11 September 2013  
Sonia Harford, 'Potted history of one who broke the mould', The Age, August 9 2013  
Owen Craven, 'Stephen Benwell – Beauty Anarchy Desire: A Retrospective', Art Almanac, August, 2013  
Ruth Learner, Stephen Benwell: ceramicist, Australian Art Review, Issue 35, Sept-Oct 2012  
John McPhee, 'Collection: Recent Works by Stephen Benwell', Artist Profile, Issue 13, 2010  
Robert Nelson, 'The dated and discredited brought back with a twist', The Age, 28 March 2010  
Margot Osborne, 'Bravura: 21st Century Australian Craft', Art Monthly Australia, Issue 227, March 2010  
John McPhee, 'Ceramic beefcake and other desires: The art of Stephen Benwell', Art & Australia, Volume 47, Spring 2009  
Courtney Kidd, 'A disciplined eye', Australian Art Collector, Issue 47, January – March 2009  
Megan Backhouse, 'Art around the galleries: Stephen Benwell', The Age A2, 17 November 2007  
Stephen Bowers, 'Essay and artist profiles – Stephen Benwell', A secret history of blue and white – contemporary Australian ceramics, Asialink Centre of The University of Melbourne and Jam Factory Contemporary Craft and Design, 2006  
Robert Nelson, 'Arcadia all on the surface', The Age, 6 July 2005  
Roger Taylor, 'The dynamic of the vessel', World Sculpture News, Vol. 8, No. 3, Summer 2002  
Barbara Wels, 'Stephen Benwell – Niagara Galleries', Craft, Vol. 32 No. 241, 2001  
Bronwyn Watson, 'Deutsche mark', The Sydney Morning Herald, 12 May 2001, p. 8  
Chris Sanders, 'Stephen Benwell — within the tradition of vessel making', Ceramic Art and Perception, No. 27, 1997  
Chris Sanders, 'Stephen Benwell', Pottery in Australia, Vol. 34, No. 4, 1995  
Alec Selenitsch, 'Stephen Benwell — recent ceramics', Craft Victoria, Spring, 1994  
Joe Pascoe, 'Stephen Benwell — castle and shrines', Ceramic Art and Perception, No. 14, 1994  
Gudrun Klix, 'The art of the object', Craft Australia, 1994

## Collections

Artbank, Sydney  
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide  
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth  
Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Victoria  
Box Hill City Council, Melbourne  
City Art Institute, Sydney  
Geelong Art Gallery, Victoria  
Latrobe Regional Art Gallery, Victoria  
Melbourne University, Victoria  
Melbourne State College, Victoria  
Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
Newcastle City Art Gallery, New South Wales  
Phillip Morris Collection, Sydney  
Parliament House, Canberra  
Powerhouse Museum, Sydney  
Queen Victoria Hospital, Melbourne  
Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston, Tasmania  
Queensland Art Gallery (QAGOMA), Brisbane  
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane  
Shepparton Art Gallery, Victoria  
St Kilda City Council, Melbourne  
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London  
Victorian Ministry of the Arts, Melbourne  
The Peter O'Callaghan QC Gallery Portrait Collection