

MEGAN PULS

Megan Puls is one of the Gold Coast's most successful potters. She established herself 15 years ago on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales and behind this success, like many accomplished artists, lie many years of hard work, and perhaps more importantly, many years of learning and experience.

Megan was attracted to pottery at an early age and consequently took it up seriously in her early 20's. She began making domestic ware and immediately found a market for her work, becoming well known locally where she continued making domestic ware for the next 12 years.

From the Mid North Coast she moved to the Gold Coast and took a job as a production potter at a well known local gallery. Here she spent many hours at the wheel learning the proficiencies of this art which underpin all that she does now. Out of this experience came the ability to throw very large pieces, much larger than a person of her size would normally throw. On some days she would throw in excess of 150 pieces! From domestic ware she moved on to garden ware and then into her preferred area of large bowls, platters and one off exhibition pieces. Megan describes that time as being professionally a very happy period of her life.

The next stage came in August 1996 when she decided to open her own studio at Clagriaba. This was a very rewarding decision, and she exhibited regularly in galleries all over Australia. Her first major exhibition was at the Bruce Watling Galleries on the Gold Coast at which she exhibited 80 pieces and sold virtually all of them.

This exhibition showed her "Lava Flow Collection" which was so named because of the predominant copper red glazes she used. She also used white shino and black oxide glazes, many of which were combined in such a way as to produce brilliant, and at times dramatic effects of great beauty. She fired these pieces so that the glazes crawled and gathered, forming hills and craters typical of hot lava.

"I liken the forces of a volcano to the forces of a kiln, as they both change the nature of the substances within them forever."

Megan has now taken this theme a step further. While remaining with these same basic glazes she has produced her next series which she has called "The Obsidian Obsession." Obsidian is a glassy black volcanic rock. Megan's new work exemplifies the nature of this rock through the clay and glazes she shapes via the heat of the volcano (her kiln).

"New forms are created from the hot lava flow. They begin as white hot, then change to red and then ultimately to obsidian black."

Recently for her large wheel thrown vessels and platters she has used white stoneware and raku clays combined with a palate of Shino, Japanese Copper Red and Raku glazes. All of these pieces are reduction fired to 1300 degrees centigrade, pushing the clays and the glazes to the limit.

"My focus and inspiration come from the core of the earth" she says which she then likens to the core of human creativity, "as the volcano erupts and the lava begins to flow, new forms are created."

To anybody observing her work over the last few years, considerable change is evident. What she is doing with glazes is superb. She will continue to move forward at this remarkable pace and the sky is her limit.



Selected Exhibitions

2010 Landline Leadlines, Cooloola Regional Gallery, Gympie
2008 Salute, Fusions Gallery, curated by Dr Janet Mansfield, Brisbane (preselected)
2006, 2008, 2010, 2013 Ignition, Sunshine Coast Art Award (preselected)
1998, 2002, 2008 Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery Art Prize (preselected)
2005, 2007, 2014 Alice Craft Acquisition, Alice Springs (preselected)
2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 Outback Regional Gallery, Winton (preselected)
2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008 Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award (preselected)
2003 Gold Coast Conrad Jupiters Art Award (preselected)
2000, 2002 Warwick Regional Art Gallery (preselected)
1998 City Council Gallery, Noumea
1998 The Toowoomba Biannual Acquisition Award and Exhibition (preselected)

Private Collections, Acquisitions

Kunura-San, Potter, 6th Generation, Japan, Shino Bowl
Singapore Private Collector, Shino Bowl
Laerkesen, Denmark, Copper Red Platter
Maroochy Shire Council, Maroochydore, Acquisition, Bronze Vessel in Form
Pan Macmillan Australia, Aboriginal Sculptures
Toowoomba Grammar Boys School, Deep Forest Diva and Vessel in Form
Gold Coast Potters Association, Nail of the Moon and Large Shino Platter
Dr Janet Mansfield, Billy Tea
Fleur Schell, Strata
Trinity Lutheran Award Of Excellence, Acquisition 2000; Vessel in Form, Acquisition 2007; Southern Ice
Back to Back Gallery Newcastle, acquisition
Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville, Acquisition
The Medalta International Cup Award, Canada. Acquisition
CFO Telstra
Clunes Major Sponsor
Jan Guy MVA[Sydney] GradDipVisArts[SCA] University Sydney
Aquired Gold Coast City Art Gallery
Aquired Telstra

Selected Awards

2015 The Medalta International TOOL Award Canada
2014 The Medalta International SPOON Award Canada
2013 The Medalta International Cup Award Canada
2013, 2012, 2010, 2007, 2002, 1999, 1998, Winner Gold Coast Potters
2013 Pre-selected Clunes Ceramic Award
2004 International Ceramic Art Award, "The Josephine Ulrick Ceramic Award"
2008 Outback Regional Gallery, Waltzing Matilda Art Award
2012, Port Hacking Potters Group, Certificate of Merit
2001, 2004, Capricorn Coast Art Festival
2013, 2012, 1999 Trinity Lutheran Award Of Excellence
Gladstone Regional Art Gallery
2006 Ignition Art Award of Excellence, Sunshine Coast
2006 Stanthorpe Arts Festival, Most Outstanding Work
D'arcy Doyle Art Award, Sculpture
Cairns Regional Gallery, Award 5
2004, 1998 Caloundra Art Festival
2012 Pride of Workmanship, Rotary Club Gold Coast
Reviewed in both Pottery Australia, Craft Arts International no 85 and Ceramic Technical magazine.
2001-2017 Taught at the Gold Coast Potters Association