

Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft

\ Prue Venables

Exhibition dates: 12 December - 9 February 2020

Artist Floor Talk: Prue Venables

Friday 13 December 2019, 2:30 - 3:30pm

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Prue Venables | Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft presents an outstanding body of work by one of Australia's greatest artists working in clay.

Acclaimed ceramicist Prue Venables is the ninth artist in the Australian Design Centre series *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft*, which celebrates the achievements of Australia's most iconic crafts practitioners.

A series of solo exhibitions, *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft* honours eminent and highly respected craftspeople, celebrating their mastery of skill, their achievements, their contribution to Australian craft, and the unique place they occupy in the national design culture.

The works of Prue Venables show a true mastery of materials. They demonstrate a profound understanding of porcelain, that most precious and temperamental of clays, whose fine-grain and opaque qualities are expressed in rigorous works of refined detail. These are handmade functional artworks that possess clarity, luminosity and a quiet beauty.

Many of the works also feature wood and metal elements formed as handles, joints and other connecting pieces. Prue Venables's forms are simple and elegant, with a minimal colour palette and subtle exaggerations – an oval lip or an elongated handle – that create a distinctive visual language.

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Image caption:

Prue Venables, *Betty's Kitchen*, 2017. Image: Terence Bogue

“Prue Venables’ ceramic works are at once familiar, echoing domestic forms, exquisitely beautiful in their etched shapes, delicate textures and luminosity, and supremely graceful,” said Lisa Cahill, CEO and Artistic Director of Australian Design Centre.

“It is a pleasure and a privilege to honour Prue Venables as the ninth artist to be recognised in the series,” said Cahill.

Prue Venables’ major body of work for this exhibition explores the significance of everyday objects through multiple sequences of forms in porcelain, with additional elements in metal and wood.

The *Prue Venables | Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft* project includes a touring exhibition, book and film, as well as public programs, digital content and an education kit.

About Prue Venables

Australian-born artist Prue Venables was studying the flute in London in 1977 when she first touched clay and was profoundly stopped in her tracks. Since then, she has devoted her time and energy to the mastery of porcelain, becoming one of Australia’s most skilled and lauded potters.

Numerous national and international exhibitions, awards and publications celebrate the fine porcelain work of Prue Venables.

Included in many public and private collections worldwide, these pots explore complex and unusual approaches to working with porcelain, challenge the significance of daily objects and highlight the richness that they bring to our lives.

Forms are deceptively simple, stand quietly, with light dancing on the sprung tension of their rims, their softly melting forms inviting touch.



Image: Prue Venables, *In her studio*, 2018
Photo: Angus Lee Forbes

Prue Venables is a multi-award winning, major Australian ceramicist. Educated at the Harrow College of Art in London with a Masters of Fine Art – Ceramics from RMIT, Prue has been practising her craft since 1977.

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Image caption:

Prue Venables, *Betty's Kitchen*, 2017. Image: Terence Bogue

10 December 2019

With a distinguished exhibition history, Prue has also mentored and taught generations of ceramicists. Prue's work is collected by major institutions and public galleries and private institutions in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, UK, USA, Canada, Japan.

She is a former President of Craft Victoria, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in London.

About Australian Design Centre

Australian Design Centre (ADC) is an independent contemporary craft and design organisation igniting creative ideas and building cultural vibrancy. Through our exhibition, festival, touring, retail, publishing and learning platforms, we take a lead role developing and supporting Australia's makers and designers and building audiences for their work across Australia and internationally.

An ADC on Tour exhibition:



Exhibition partners:



Exhibition supported by:



Australian Government
Visions of Australia



Australian Government
Visual Arts and Craft Strategy



ADC on Tour

Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft \ Prue Venables was researched and developed under a Visions of Australia research grant and is ADC's major national touring exhibition for 2019 – 2022 with the tour also supported by the Federal Government's Visions of Australia program.

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