

AVITAL SHEFFER

Avital Sheffer's work is informed by an investigation of her Jewish heritage and the landscape, architecture, languages and wisdom that arise from an interweaving of related European and Middle Eastern cultures. Ancient ceramics, glass, metalware and calligraphy are a source of inspiration. Ancient ceramics, glass, metalware and calligraphy are a well of inspiration. The elegant and expressive designs on the surface of her vessels come from a library of ancient Semitic, Arabic and Hellenic texts and imagery she has gathered from museums and libraries around the world. Recently, Avital has begun to introduce some carving onto her vessels to create three dimensional surfaces that reference the carved facades of Islamic architecture. Living in Australia has also been an important influence on her work; "...absorbing influences of landscape and light offers a unique perspective from which I reevaluate my complex heritage. I am interested in the frayed edges of mythologies and language, where dialogue and cross-fertilization between cultures takes place. Personal experiences of conflict, migration, dislocation and renewal intersect with the dilemmas between traditions and modernity." Avital's ceramic vessels are hand-formed, constructed with coil, slab and mould, fired multiple times with applications of slips, glazes, terra sigillatas and prints.

Avital Sheffer grew up in Israel, where she practiced fashion and textile design, building design and town planning. After migrating to Australia in 1990 and settling on the North Coast of NSW, she turned to the making of ceramics, receiving a Diploma in ceramics from Lismore TAFE College in 2003. Over the last ten years Avital has exhibited widely across Australia and the USA, and has been a finalist in numerous awards including the Blake Prize, Muswellbrook Art Prize, Manning Art Prize and IV International Biennial of Ceramics in Korea. In 2014, she was awarded an Australian Council for the Arts skills and development grant which enabled her to complete her recent residency in Barcelona. Avital Sheffer is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics and her work is represented in many collections including the National Gallery of Australia, Powerhouse Museum, Ateliers d'Art de France, Manly Art Gallery and Museum and many regional galleries across Australia.

BIOGRAPHY

1954	Born Jaffa, Israel
1980-85	Fashion design and manufacturing, Israel
1980-90	Architecture/landscape design, Clil cooperative for Settlement and Development, Western Galilee, Israel
1990	Migrated to Australia
2004	Diploma in Ceramics, TAFE, Lismore, NSW
2009	Elected for membership of the International Academy of Ceramics, Geneva
2010	Artist residency, SODA Fremantle, WA
2011	Artist in residence, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
2016	Artist in residence, Barcelona

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017	"Wanderlust", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2016	"Terra Entera", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
2015	"Intimate distance", Stephanie Hoppen Gallery, London, UK
2014	"Edge of memory", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
	"Terra Oculta", Stephanie Hoppen Gallery, London, UK
	"Embodied", Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW
	"Beneath my Feet", Lasting Impressions Gallery, Kenilworth, QLD
2013	"Confluence", Anthea Polson Art, Gold Coast, Qld
2012	"TerraForma", Gadfly Gallery, Perth
	"Life of Form", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
2011	"New Ceramic Sculptures", Beaux Arts, Bath, UK
	"Mother tongues", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
	"Terra memoria", Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne
2010	"Continuum", Anthea Polson Art, Gold Coast, Qld
	"Peregrinations", Gadfly Gallery, Perth
2009	"Terra Anima", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
	"Deep Earth", regional touring exhibition
	"Origins", Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne
2008	Thomas Riley Galleries, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
	"Terra intima", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
2007	Jane Sauer Thirteen Moons Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
	Salmon Galleries, Sydney

- 2006 "Unearthed II", Salmon Galleries, Sydney
"New work", Lismore Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 2005 "Unearthed", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2004 Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney (with Marguerite Josephson)
"Under the dome", Tweed River Regional Art Gallery, NSW

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 "Ceramic Revisions", May Space Gallery, Sydney
"Accolade", Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Sydney
- 2016 "International Academy of Ceramics Members Exhibition", Museo del Disseny, Barcelona
"LA Art Show (Tansey Contemporary) USA
Melbourne Art Fair (Mossgreen Gallery)
"La Femina", Grafton Regional Gallery
"Mir Zehnen Do", Glen Eira City Council Gallery
- 2015 SOFA Chicago (Tansey Contemporary)
"Well Red", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
"Unconventional Con'form'ity", Tansey Contemporary, Santa Fe, USA
"CHOICE", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2014 "Australian Ceramics", Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne
"The Object Divine", Lauraine Diggings Gallery, Melbourne
"Quiet Conversations", Skepsi @ Montsalvat, Skepsi on Swanston, Victoria
- 2013 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2012 "Ceramics now", Bucharest, Romania
"Enduring Forms", Aptos Cruz Gallery, Adelaide
"Art Platform Los Angeles", (Gaffer Gallery), Hong Kong
"Sculpture 24", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 "Art London", Beaux Arts Bath
"The 60th Blake Touring Exhibition"
"Fairytale in Fairyland", Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW
"Sculpture 23", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
"Confined excitement: pleasures of the void", Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, USA
New York Arts Pacific Asia Show, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, USA
30 to collect – Arthouse Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 International Academy of Ceramics Members, Sevres Cite de la Ceramique, Paris, France
"Sculpture 22", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
"On paper: in time and in others' minds", Art Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW
"The space between", Aptos Cruz Gallery, Adelaide
9th Festival in Ceramics, demonstrators' exhibition, University of Ballarat Post Office Gallery, Vic
"Down memory lane", Framed Gallery, Darwin
"Art event", Jewish Museum of Australia / NGV International, Melbourne
"Time + place", Cudgong Gallery, Gulgong, NSW
- 2009 "White Heat", The Australian Ceramics Association's Biennial Exhibition, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney
"Sculpture 21", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
"forty", Brisbane Grammar School Art Show
FEHVA Art Exhibition and Auction, Bangalow, NSW
"Here/Now", Mossgreen Gallery, Melbourne
"Our Most Easterly Edge", Fusions Gallery, Brisbane
"Clay", NCECA Group Exhibition, Cervini Hass Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA
"Palm Beach 3", Thomas Riley Galleries, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
"Egyptian Treasures: Arts of the Pharaohs", The Australian Museum, Sydney
"The 58th Touring Blake Prize Exhibition", touring exhibition
Friends of Bezalel Art Exhibition, Arthouse Hotel, Sydney
"Heated Words", Fusions Gallery, Brisbane
- 2008 "Ceramicos", Waywood Gallery, Byron Bay, NSW
"Sculpture 20", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
"Palm Beach 3", Thomas Riley Galleries, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

- COLLECT, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK (Raglan Galleries, Sydney)
Sidney Myer International Ceramic Award, Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic
FEHVA Art Exhibition and Auction, Bangalow, NSW
SOFA Chicago (Thomas Riley Galleries, Cleveland, Ohio, USA)
2007 "Palm Beach 3", Thomas Riley Galleries, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Art London, UK (Raglan Gallery, Sydney)
SOFA Chicago (Thomas Riley Galleries, Cleveland, Ohio, USA)
FEHVA Art Exhibition and Auction, Bangalow, NSW
2006 "Hand Made", J Johnson Gallery, Jacksonville Beach, Florida, USA
SOFA New York 2006, New York, USA (Jane SauerThirteen Moons Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA)
SOFA Chicago 2006, Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
"Chrysalis", Lismore Regional Art Gallery, NSW
"ConVerge", Victor Mace Fine Art Gallery, Brisbane
Gold-Coast International Ceramic Award, Qld
FEHVA Art Exhibition and Auction, Bangalow, NSW
2005 Gold Coast International Ceramic Award, Qld
The 3rd World Ceramic Biennale, Korea
SOFA Chicago 2005, Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
FEHVA Art Exhibition and Auction, Bangalow, NSW
2004 "Fusions 2004 Graduate Award Exhibition", Brisbane
Graduating Students Award Exhibition, Inner City Clayworks, Sydney
Gold Coast International Ceramic Award, Qld
"Christmas Exhibition", Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney
14th Birthday Exhibition, Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney
Artists Book-Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW
"Under the Dome", Tweed River Regional Art Gallery, NSW
2003 Gold Coast International Ceramic Award, Qld
1999 "Thursday Plantation Sculpture Show", Ballina, NSW

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2016 Finalist, Muswellbrook Art Prize, NSW
2014 Awarded, Australia Council for the Arts, Skills and Arts Development grant (residency in Barcelona)
2012 Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award
The Wilson Visual Arts Award
Winner, Byron Arts Classic
2011 Highly Commended, Muswellbrook Open Art Prize, NSW
Travelling Scholarship Prize, Noosa Regional Gallery, Qld
Prometheus Visual Arts Award
Finalist, Burnie Print Prize, Burnie Regional Art Gallery, Tas
2010 Acquisition Award, Stanthorpe Art Festival, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, Qld
Finalist, Ergon Energy CQ Ceramic Award, Rockhampton Regional Art Gallery, Qld
2009 Finalist, Burnie Print Prize, Burnie Regional Art Gallery, Tas
Highly Commended, Muswellbrook Open Art Prize, Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, NSW
Finalist, Prometheus Visual Arts Award
Finalist, IV International Biennial of Ceramics, Talavera de la Reina, Toledo, Spain
Finalist, The Blake Prize
Finalist, Manning Art Prize, Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree, NSW
2008 Grant, Australia Council New Work
Finalist, The Sidney Myer International Ceramic Award
Winner, Border Art Prize, Tweed River Art Gallery, NSW
2006 Grant, Australia Council New Work
Finalist, Gold Coast International Ceramic Award
2005 Acquisition Award, Gold Coast International Ceramics Award - The Josephine Ulrick Award For Excellence, Qld
Honorary Mention, The 3rd World Ceramic Biennale International Competition, Korea
2004 Finalist, Gold Coast International Ceramic Award
2003 Finalist, Gold Coast International Ceramic Award
1999 Special Mention, Thursday Plantation Sculpture Show, Ballina, NSW

PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 "Subversive Ceramics", Claudia Clare, Bloomsbury, London
"Unconventional Conformity", Rochelle Belsito, *American Art Collector*, issue 16, June 2015
- 2014 "Vessels carry an elegant interplay of culture, language and form", Peter Haynes, *Canberra Times*, 5 April
- 2013 "500 Prints on Clay", Paul Andrew Wandless, *Lark Craft Ceramics Now*, issue 2
"2012 "Life of Form", Lynee Dwyer, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 March
- 2011 "The Pot Book", Edmund de Waal and Claudia Clare
"Fusing form and decoration", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 17 February
- 2010 Acquisition Award, Stanthorpe Art Festival, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, Qld
Finalist, Ergon Energy CQ Ceramic Award, Rockhampton Regional Art Gallery, Qld
- 2009 "A present past/ a continuous present", Louise Martin Chew, *Deep Earth* catalogue
"Avital Sheffer: Body of Work", Ann McMahon, *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, issue 48 no. 1
"Exhibitions: Avital Sheffer", *Ceramics Monthly*, October
"White Heat", *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, issue 48 no. 2
Exhibition review, Dalia Sable, *The Australian Jewish News*, 10 November
Gallery review, *Ceramic Review*, issue 240
"Visual Art", Dylan Rainforth, *The Age*, 12 November
- 2008 "New works by Avital Sheffer", Pollyanna Sutton, *Craft Arts International*, issue 72
"Encoded sentinels", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 25 October
- 2007 "Avital Sheffer: Exhibition", *Craft Arts International*, issue 71
Art London 2007 Catalogue
"ConVerge: The Strength of a Region", Grace Cochrane, *Ceramics Art and Perception*, issue 67
- 2006 "24th Gold Coast International Ceramic Award", *Craft Arts International*, issue 66
"The Emergence of Northern Rivers Artists", Louise Martin Chew, *Chrysalis* catalogue
"ConVerge: Northern Rivers Touring Exhibition Catalogue", Kerry Selwood, Arts Northern Rivers, September
SOFA Chicago 2006 catalogue
- 2005 "Tradition to Modernity", Gordon Foulds, *Craft Arts International*, issue 64
"Unearthed culture", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, 22 September
Ceramics Art and Perception, issue 60
- 2004 *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, issue 43 # 2
The Journal of Australian Ceramics, issue 43 # 3

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld; Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sydney; Atelier d'Art de France, Paris, France; Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW; Tweed River Art Gallery, NSW; Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne; Art Gallery of Ballarat, Vic; Shepparton Art Gallery, Vic; Southern Downs Regional Art Collection, Stanthorpe, Qld; Glasshouse Regional Gallery, Port Macquarie, NSW; Ceramics Victoria Permanent Collection, Vic; Brisbane Grammar School Art Collection, Brisbane; The Russell Berrie Foundation, Teaneck, USA; The Charles Bronfman Collection, Teaneck, USA ; Museo del Cántir, Argenton, Spain; Bendigo Art Gallery, Vic