

SCOTT DUNCAN

EMPTY VESSELS



EXHIBITION CATALOGUE
6 - 23 OCTOBER



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In Scott Duncan's ceramics, references from mid-century modern to antiquity fuse together through the firing process. Playful in construction and ambiguous in function, aesthetic histories adhere and then peel off like a turned up edge of corrugate cardboard. With a capacity to conjure the texture of an Italian Bitossi Ceramiche object or a local Bendigo Pottery vase, Scott Duncan pulls our focus to the echo of ancient forms in modern design. Antiquity stares back in the suggestion of an Etruscan face cut out of the side of a fruit box, the mouth inviting a hand to enter it. Duncan's hand built forms might also suggest delicate perfume bottles with glass stoppers, while offering a scale that is as resilient as a Roman wine amphora.

On technique, Scott Duncan approaches things with a punk aesthetic. He has an idea of what he wants to achieve and then figures out how to make it work. Remarkably, each object is a single piece of earthenware. Shifts in texture, colour and gloss are achieved during the firing process. The artist makes his own dry underglazes, manufacturing chalk and his own pencils to create the idiosyncratic lines that mark the surface. Backing up the last five years of dedicated art making is his lengthy experience as a head chef. Downplaying the skill involved in ceramics, Duncan states, "It's like making a cake," before adding, "Porcelain clay is kind of like shortcrust pastry." The production ethic and decisiveness of a chef is certainly evident in these pieces.

For the current show, Empty Vessels, Scott Duncan has ramped up the scale and constructed what he describes as a "mid-century monolith" of stacked forms. *Saturn* is a centrepiece of nostalgic modernist references looping back to a Greek myth origin story. Duncan's *Saturn* ravenously expresses an enthusiastic appetite for the designed world high and low, from archaeological dig to a 1970s lounge room.

Scott Duncan grew up on the south-west coast of Victoria at a time when the pathways offered for young men spanned football, farming or surfing. So he surfed and commenced art study locally with teacher Glenn Morgan. After recommencing his art practice, a residency at Kil.n.it Experimental Ceramics Studios in Glebe, Sydney, has connected him with an audience interested in ambitious work in clay. Empty Vessels is the artist's first solo show at The Egg & Dart, Thirroul.

- Melody Willis







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David, 2021

Earthenware, underglaze and glazes

123 x 43 x 40cm

AUD 10,500





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The Illustrated History of Ceramics (Citrus Edition), 2021

Earthenware, underglaze and glazes

43 x 31 x 2cm

AUD 1,900





SCOTT DUNCAN
Canadian Rooster, 2021
Earthenware, underglaze and glazes
43 x 38 x 10cm
AUD 2,200





SCOTT DUNCAN

Fresh, 2021

Earthenware, underglaze and glazes

43 x 20.5 x 10cm

AUD 2,100







SCOTT DUNCAN
Totem of the Studio Potter's Guild, 2021
Earthenware, underglaze and glazes
128 x 47 x 34cm
AUD 10,500





SCOTT DUNCAN
Harvest Goon, 2021
Earthenware, underglaze and glazes
40.5 x 33 x 2cm
AUD 1,900





SCOTT DUNCAN
Lobsters are a Girl's Best Friend, 2021
Earthenware, underglaze and glazes
58 x 44 x 11cm
AUD 2,950





SCOTT DUNCAN
Recycled Prawns, 2021
Earthenware, underglaze and glazes
63 x 37 x 13cm
AUD 2,950





SCOTT DUNCAN
Saturn, 2021
Earthenware, underglaze and glazes
71 x 40 x 30cm
AUD 7,200





SCOTT DUNCAN
Ohio Star Shine, 2021
Earthenware, underglaze and glazes
45 x 45 x 16cm
AUD 2,900





SCOTT DUNCAN
Brut no. 7, 2021
Earthenware, underglaze and glazes
45 x 26 x 13cm
AUD 2,400





SCOTT DUNCAN
The Golden Eel, 2021
Earthenware, underglaze and glazes
70 x 50 x 50cm
AUD 4,500

SCOTT DUNCAN

CV

Born 1973, Geelong, VIC
Based in Sydney, NSW

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Empty Vessels, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
- 2019 Mongoes Bananananas, WELLINGTON ST PROJECTS, Chippendale, NSW
- 2006 Mind Trash, SPACE JUNK, Manly NSW

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Empty Vessels, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
- 2020 Kil.n.it Art Month Pop-Up, PARAMOUNT HOUSE HOTEL, Surry Hills, NSW
- 2019 1919 Salon, GALERIE POMPOM, Chippendale, NSW
Kil.n.it Art Month show, 541 ARTSPACE, Sydney, NSW
- 2018-19 Meditation On A Bone: Albert Tucker, Beyond the Museum, HEIDE MUSEUM OF ART, Bulleen, VIC
- 2018 Familiar Intervention, KUDOS, Paddington, NSW
Clay Date (Artmonth), 541 ARTSPACE, Sydney, NSW
- 2017 Livin the Dream, 107 PROJECTS, Sydney, NSW
Slice of Life, CRAFT VICTORIA, Melbourne, VIC
- 2008 Reverse, SPACE JUNK, Manly, NSW

AWARDS & COLLECTIONS

- 2019 Finalist, STILL: National Still Life Award, COFFS HARBOUR REGIONAL GALLERY, Coffs Harbour, NSW
Artbank Collection, ARTBANK, Sydney, NSW
- 2017 Finalist, STILL: National Still Life Award, COFFS HARBOUR REGIONAL GALLERY, Coffs Harbour, NSW

RESIDENCIES

- 2020 Residency, KIL.N.IT, Glebe, NSW
- 2018 Contributing artist, ART MONTH FUNDRAISER, Sydney, NSW
- 2016 Residency, AUSTRALIAN DESIGN CENTRE, Glebe, NSW

