



Kirra Galleries 2012 SOFA exhibition

KIRRA GALLERIES

Federation Square (enter via Atrium)
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Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 10.00am - 6.00pm





Peter Kolliner OAM
Gallery Director

The 19th Annual International SOFA (Sculpture Objects & Functional Art) exhibition will take place at Chicago's historic Navy Pier from Thursday 1 November to Sunday 4 November 2012. Kirra Galleries will exhibit the work of twelve Australian Glass Artists showcasing a variety of techniques.

For nine years, Kirra Galleries, located in Federation Square in Melbourne, through its policy of promoting Australian Contemporary Glass Artists internationally, has taken the work of some forty artists to the renowned SOFA exhibition with the support of the Australian Government through Austrade and the Australia Council.

Kirra Galleries attendance at SOFA Chicago has resulted in many of our emerging artists gaining recognition from international collectors and galleries. Their works are now included in many of the most prestigious private and public collections in the USA. Through this exposure they have also gained international representation allowing them to make a full-time commitment to their art.

This year we will be represented by our Gallery Manager and Curator, Suzanne Brett, Gallery Co-ordinator, Yasmin Brett and the Gallery's Administration Manager, Vicki Winter.

The success of Kirra Galleries' exhibition at SOFA is supporting the development of international markets and recognition for Australian artists, and providing new and emerging glass artists the opportunity to gain international exposure.

About SOFA

SOFA CHICAGO is the City's longest continually running art fair, and this year will feature 80 art galleries and dealers from 10 countries.

The Art Fair Company announced it will produce two art fairs under one roof at Chicago's historic Navy Pier, Thursday 1 November – Sunday 4 November 2012. The Intuit Show of Folk and Outsider Art will share center stage in Festival Hall with Chicago's much-anticipated art fair mainstay, the 19th Annual International Sculpture Objects & Functional Art Fair: SOFA CHICAGO 2012.



Kirra Galleries at SOFA

Kirra **Galleries**

www.kirragalleries.com

2012 SOFA (Sculpture Objects & Functional Art) Chicago

**Australian Glass Artists represented
by Kirra Galleries at SOFA Chicago 2012**



www.sofaexpo.com

Tevita Havea

"Havea's work is a lyrical interweave of Polynesian mythology, custom and creation stories; stories about regeneration and the symbiotic relationship between the feminine and masculine". M Bottari

Biography

Since graduating from ANU (Australian National University – Canberra) in 2005 Tevita has gained recognition in both Australia and the USA for his innovative work influenced by the cultural environment of his native Tonga. In 2007 a piece of his work was purchased by The Corning Museum of Glass and in 2009 he received The New Talent Award from Urban Glass New York and was a finalist in The Ranamok Glass Prize, a travelling exhibition of Australian and New Zealand glass artists.



Viola by Tevita Havea

Christopher John

Artist Statement

For many years I have repeatedly returned to the human face as my "Licht Motif". The whole drama of human existence can be read in the simple lines of the profiled head or the uncompromising frontality of "le visage". This body of work explores the relationship of pattern to the human form with intimations of interior states of being and the mythos of antiquity.

Biography

Since graduating from Monash University in 1983, Christopher has spent over 25 years in the architectural field of ecclesiastic, corporate, civic and residential glass. He has taught life drawing, art and design at Monash University Campuses and expanded his oeuvre to include a more personal vision in Studio Glass.



Dancers Meditation by Christopher John

Mikyoung Jung

Artist Statement

My continuing migration from South Korea to Canada, England and Australia as well as living and travelling in different countries as a 'nomad' has encouraged me to develop ways to communicate and articulate my feelings beyond the traditional conduit of speech, while also re-defining the boundary between myself and others from different cultures.

Through my experience of crossing continents and time zones over the last eight years, I was able to concentrate on the relationship between myself and others, where I live and where others live. Like children who have a hidden box or special space for their fantasies and treasures, I construct my own secret box with kiln-formed glass in my art works to represent similar characteristics between human life and glass. I insert metal figures into my spaces, which are treasures for my life beyond the boundaries of different spaces and times. My work represents my continuing life journey as well as the life journey of others that I encounter through my perspective.



In the Shadow of Giants by Mikyoung Jung

Annabel Kilpatrick

Artist Statement

My glass tells a story through the expressive qualities of body language.
I aim to capture a split second of being in its most poignant form.

This work is inspired by old sepia images of faded colours that captured the free and fabulous nature of my Grandparents lifestyle on the beach of Portland, Australia in the 1950s.

Biography

Annabel completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts at Monash University, Melbourne in 2007 and received the Outstanding Student Award. She is an emerging glass artist and has participated in several group exhibitions since graduating and this is the third time her work has been represented by Kirra Galleries at SOFA Chicago.



Some like it hot by Annabel Kilpatrick

Ruth McCallum-Howell

Artist Statement

A philosophical rhizome is an “image of thought” that apprehends multiplicities; based on the botanical rhizome that many are familiar with.

The idea that a rhizome may be broken, damaged or destroyed in any part; and will start up again in one of its other parts and re-establish new connections, is crucial to our perception of non-linear space and how it is seen to operate.

Non-linear aesthetic systems like the branching dichroic faces presented in the Rhizome Series are chaotic yet deterministic. Deterministic is defined by the same starting conditions producing the same end conditions; however these aesthetic systems are always of interest because there will always be apparent unpredictability once the initial conditions vary only slightly. The chaotic fracturing and ruptures in the surface of the rhizome are part of what defines its structure.

The works in the Rhizome Series trace the rhizomatic connections that stem from form and shape, as well as the obvious self-similarity within the branching imagery itself. The rhizomatic behaviour of branching systems in this case relates directly to the Dichroic surface patterning and glass chemistry, whilst also acknowledging the formation and realisation of visual connections; and the role they play in germinating or becoming part of creative rhizomatic connections in the future.



Rhizome V Mandolin by Ruth McCallum-Howell

Ruth Oliphant

Artist Statement

I am trying to recreate an essential aspect of the modern city based on my experiences and memories. I am exploring the use of layers, bringing them together to create more complex landscapes. Through this method I aim to recreate the layered atmospheres that attract me to the city environment.

By removing any obvious evidence of human activity the streets take on an empty, dream like quality.

In this body of work I look at the city through its patterns, colours and shapes. I use these three elements to explore the depth, space and mood of the inner city. These range from literal recognisable streetscapes to more abstracted captured moments of colour and pattern.



A Thousand Windows by Ruth Oliphant

Harriet Schwarzrock

Artist Statement

I am drawn to the intrinsic complexity and aesthetic beauty of biological forms and growth. Intrigued by the complex interplay between an organism and the verging environment, I seek to capture a quietly shifting sense of reflected growth, whilst being attentive to the spaces and balance between these forms.

Biography

Harriet graduated from the Sydney College of the Arts in 1998 and completed her Honours in 1999. She has participated in many group exhibitions since graduating and continues to develop her knowledge and techniques. This is the first time Harriet has been represented by Kirra Galleries at SOFA Chicago.



Harriet Schwarzrock

Tim Shaw

Tim is thrilled to present a new collection for SOFA 2012 that sees the continuation of his passionate exploration into a greater subtlety of colour palates, creating ever more sensual and evocative objects.

This year sees the debut of a new series entitled 'Paradise Contained', presented in the form of the traditional lidded ginger jar. This addition to Tim's repertoire depicts his personal study of landscape and alludes to his love of romantic poetry.

Tim's choice to depict his emotive scenes on vessel-based objects, coupled with his distinctive interpretation of cut glass, creates the perfect blend of traditional and contemporized art glass. His quest to always push the boundaries in glass is epitomized through his exceptional cuboid forms.

Many of his pieces include a flying bird motif, symbolic of a free spirit endlessly soaring through the panoramas, both real and imagined, of Tim's work.



The Transit by Tim Shaw
Photography by Iain Bond

Crystal Stubbs

Artist Statement

Within my work I have focused on creating stylized figurative pieces that are aesthetically coherent. Through the use of two different techniques 'Character series' explores the relationship between the human figure and structural shapes.

I enjoy the challenge of combining the immediate hot glass process with the more time consuming casting process.

I sculpt fluid human forms, and incorporate lineal, structural objects to create an interesting contrast, yet aesthetically balanced piece.



Enfold by Crystal Stubbs

Emma Varga

Emma Varga is a glass artist based in Sydney, Australia.

Virtual Garden – a new body of sculptural and installation based works has sprung from the artist's all consuming passion for the medium of glass and further reinforced by her many travels over the years.

Emma has an enduring focus on the small details of colour, pattern and repetition that she continues to use in her work, by abstracting nature and turning the elements into pattern, much as nature does.

By singling out the details, Emma allows the viewer to focus on the colours, light and pattern.



Virtual Garden #1 by Emma Varga

Robert Wynne

Artist Statement

My work portrays contrasting impulses within. I love the challenge of technical precision but I need to be able to play and explore. I enjoy making beautiful objects but I am not afraid to create pieces that evoke emotions more complex than just aesthetic appreciation. In some ways I'm an anarchist, I'm not happy when things are just comfortable. I am restless, always looking for an angle and this is reflected in a body of work that is quite diverse.

Having said this, there are common threads running through my work. I love the gorgeous glow of light through frosted glass. I highlight and contrast this with layers of colour and surface decoration; I frame it in bold forms that make strong visual statements. I take inspiration from a broad range of influences and have enjoyed developing my work with my partner, Yuri. In the spirit of diversity, the current work pushes on two fronts, more refined and greater freedom.



Hyacinth Murrini Bowl by Robert Wynne

Takemura Yusuke

Artist Statement

Transparent glass, blown into shape of a vessel is the best canvas to create my desired complicated and mysterious objects. By cutting holes into a thin surface of glass forms, which is a challenging process I aim to create a fragile structure, a sculptural object. After laborious fine grinding and polishing all the edges of holes, the boundaries between void and transparent surface blurs and it creates an optical illusion.

Biography

Takemura completed his Master of Art at the Sydney College of the Arts in Sydney, Australia in 2009. At the recent biennial conference of the Association of Australian Glass Artists he was the recipient of an award (Vicki Torr Prize) judged by his peers and in 2010 his work was selected for the Ranamok Glass Prize, a prestigious touring exhibition featuring work from Australian and New Zealand Glass Artists.



Frosty bud 2012 by Takemura Yusuke

Current Exhibition

4 October 2012 to 4 November 2012

Directors' Choice

The Kirra Galleries Directors' Choice Exhibition celebrates Kirra Galleries 10th birthday at Fed Square.

The Directors' Choice Exhibition represents thirty two of Australia's leading glass artists who have been exhibiting at the Fed Square gallery over the past ten years during the staging of over one hundred exhibitions.

Participating Artists:

George Aslanis, Lisa Cahill, Tali Dalton, Ben Edols, Kathy Elliott, Brenden Scott French, Alasdair Gordon, Rish Gordon, Holly Grace, Tony Hanning, Noel Hart, Tevita Havea, Brian Hirst, Mikyoung Jung, Gerry King, Brent King, Jennifer Ashley King, Laurel Kohut, Miki Kubo, Amanda Loudon, Ruth McCallum-Howell, Nadia Mercuri, Richard Morrell, Keith Rowe, Harriet Schwarzrock, Tim Shaw, Crystal Stubbs, Emma Varga, Bethany Wheeler, Patrick Wong, Robert Wynne and Takemura Yusuke.

Forthcoming Exhibition

1 November 2012 to 4 November 2012

SOFA Chicago 2012

Kirra Galleries will be exhibiting at SOFA Chicago 2012.

Participating Artists:

Tevita Havea, Christopher John, Mikyoung Jung, Annabel Kilpatrick, Ruth McCallum-Howell, Ruth Oliphant, Harriet Schwarzrock, Tim Shaw, Crystal Stubbs, Emma Varga, Robert Wynne and Takemura Yusuke.

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