

ADRIAN SASOON

## Robin Best

Curriculum Vitae



Born 1953, Perth, Western Australia

1973-1976 South Australian School of Art, Australia, Diploma Design Ceramics

1992-1993 University of South Australia, Australia, Graduate Diploma Visual Arts

Working in Victoria, Australia and Jingdezhen, China

"Seven years ago I moved my studio to the old town of Jingdezhen in China, famous for porcelain and once the site of the Imperial Kiln. Jingdezhen is located in a river valley surrounded by verdant mountains that are often shrouded in mist. The image of man dwarfed by the landscape is at the heart of traditional Chinese painting and this idea of the scale of man in the cosmos can also be found in the emergence of the Age of the Enlightenment and the Age of Scientific Discovery.

The subject of my painting is history, and more especially the history of European trade and its association with scientific discovery and its attendant cross-cultural links with Asia and the New World. Fuelling the rampant success of world trade was the appetite of the European for exotic foods and spices and luxury goods from China in the form of silk, porcelain, lacquer ware and jade. India would supply pepper and a store of treasures in the form of precious gems and glorious printed cottons.

I use the method of Xin Cai polychrome on-glaze painting on porcelain that originated in China during the Qing Dynasty. The Meissen Factory in Saxony would expand the colour palette to accommodate the needs of landscape and history painting on porcelain. Using a small palette knife, the coloured powders, mixed with fat oil and thinned with pure turpentine, are applied with a brush that tapers to a very fine point and can be used to make both fine lines and washes."

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2008 *Finding Malila*, Gadfly Gallery, Perth, Australia  
 2004 *New Work with Old Cultures*, Madame Mao's Dowry, Shanghai, China  
 2002 *Robin Best: Marine Forms*, Madame Mao's Dowry, Shanghai, China

## Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 *Adrian Sassoon*, The Treasure House Fair, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands  
 2024 *Adrian Sassoon*, The Treasure House Fair, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands  
*If You Don't Fight You Lose*, Flinders University Museum of Art, South Australia  
 2023 *Adrian Sassoon*, The Treasure House Fair, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands  
 2022 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
 2021 *Ceramics from the Collection*, AiR, Seto, Japan  
*Adrian Sassoon at Parham, a House of History*, Parham House, West Sussex  
 2020 *Adrian Sassoon at The London House of Modernity*, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands  
 2019 *Composing Form*, Helen Day Art Center, Stowe, VT, USA  
*A Tea Journey: From the Mountains to the Table*, Compton Verney, Warwickshire  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands  
 2018 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Revive, Remix, Respond*, The Frick Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands  
 2017 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands  
 2016 *Adrian Sassoon*, Salon of Art & Design, New York, USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
 2015 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
 2014 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Art Antiques London, Kensington Gardens, London  
*Made in China: The New Export Ware*, Ferrin Contemporary at Independent Art Projects, North Adams, MA, USA  
*Ceramic Top 40*, Red Star Studios at Belger Crane Studios, Kansas City, MO, USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
 2013 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Designing Craft / Crafting Design: 40 Years of JamFactory*, JamFactory, Adelaide, South Australia  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Art Antiques London, Kensington Gardens, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
*New Blue-and-White*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA

## Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 2012 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Roads Cross, Contemporary Directions in Australian Art*, Flinders University City Gallery, State Library of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Art Antiques London, Kensington Gardens, London  
*Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Roads Cross, Contemporary Directions in Australian Art*, Adelaide, South Australia  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2011 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Art Antiques London, Kensington Gardens, London  
*Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2010 *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, Former Chelsea Barracks, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
*Immanence*, Samstag Gallery, Adelaide, South Australia
- 2009 *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London  
*Only Porcelain*, Gadfly Gallery, Perth, Australia  
*Adrian Sassoon*, International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
*Blue and White*, Galerie Handwerk, Munich, Germany
- 2008 *Porcelain*, Jam Factory, Adelaide, South Australia
- 2007 *Skins of Asia*, World Ceramic Biennale, Icheon, Korea
- 2006 *Writing the Painting*, Adelaide Festival of Arts, University of South Australia, Adelaide, South Australia  
*The Secret History of Blue and White*, Asia link touring exhibition to Vietnam, China, Singapore and Bangkok  
*Australian Impressionism*, Galerie Rosenhauer, Göttingen, Germany
- 2005 *Australian Contemporary*, COLLECT, Victoria and Albert Museum, London  
*Ceramics from Seto Collection*, Seto, Japan  
*Snuff*, Madame Mao's Dowry, Shanghai, China
- 2004 *2004 – Australian Culture Now*, The Ian Potter Centre, Melbourne, Australia
- 2003 *Ancient Futures*, Kyoto, Japan  
*Light Black*, JamFactory, Adelaide, South Australia & touring to The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; Japan; Museum of Contemporary Art, Kyoto, Japan; National Museum for the Arts, Taiwan
- 2002 *Wild Nature*, JamFactory, Adelaide, South Australia  
*Ritual of Tea*, JamFactory, Adelaide, South Australia
- 1990 *Girl Traversing the Yarra –Neon Animation*, Melbourne Sculpture Triennial, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

## Awards

- 2011 New Work Grant, Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council
- 2010 Arts Projects Assistance Scheme, ArtsSA
- 2006 Arts Projects Assistance Scheme, ArtsSA
- 2005 AsiaLink Residency, Beijing, China  
 Australia China Council Residency Beijing and Shanghai, China
- 2004 Artist in Residence, Seto, Japan

## Awards (continued)

2003	VACB/Australia Council grant for new work
	Arts Projects Assistance Scheme ArtSA
2002	Arts Projects Assistance Scheme ArtSA
2001	South Australian Ceramic Award
1999	South Australian Design Awards, Merit award
	Australia Council Development Grant to research CAD–CAM applications as applied to industrial ceramics in Europe and UK
1995	Arts Projects Assistance Scheme, ArtSA
1988	Personal Development Grant, Crafts Board of the Australia Council
1982	Workshop Development Grant, Crafts Board of Australia Council

## Public Collections

National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh  
 Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Norwich  
 Musée des arts décoratifs de la faïence et de la Mode, Marseille, France  
 Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minnesota, USA  
 Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, USA  
 Artbank, Australia  
 Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia  
 Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia  
 Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown, New South Wales, Australia  
 Flinders University Museum of Art, Bedford Park, South Australia  
 Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton, Victoria, Australia  
 Tasmania Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia  
 University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia  
 Victorian State Craft Collection, Melbourne, Australia  
 Icheon World Ceramic Centre, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea  
 Seto Marutto Museum, Seto, Aichi-ken, Japan

## Bibliography: Books & Catalogues

2017	Speck, C. <i>Australian Art Exhibitions: A New Story</i> , Thames and Hudson, 2017
2015	Scott, P., <i>Horizon, Transferware and Contemporary Ceramics</i> , Arnoldsche, Stuttgart, Germany, ISBN 978-3897904255
2011	de Waal, E., <i>The Pot Book</i> , Phaidon, ISBN 9780714847993
2008	Wardell, S., <i>Slipcasting</i> , A&C Black
2006	Cooper, E., <i>The Ceramics Book: An A-Z Guide to 300 Ceramic Artists</i>
2000	Cooper, E., <i>10,000 Years of Pottery</i> , The British Museum

## Bibliography: Selected Articles & Essays

2015	Crichton-Miller, E., <i>Masters of Ming: Modern Takes on an Ancient Craft</i> , Wall Street Journal, January
2014	Reason, R., <i>Robin Best: The Pepper Pot</i> , Articulate, Winter

**Bibliography: Selected Articles & Essays (continued)**

- 2014 Grimma, V., *Robin Best on Living and Working in Jingdezhen China*, The Journal of Australian Ceramics, Vol. 53 No. 1
- 2008 Walton, I., *A Secret History*, Ceramic Review, July/August  
 Bowers, S., *Robin Best*, Artlink, Vol. 28 No. 2  
 Osborne, M., *White Gold*, Adelaide Advertiser  
 Bowers, S., *SA Ceramic Award*, Ceramics Art and Perception
- 2006 Neylon, J., *Writing a Painting*, Adelaide Review  
 Osborne, M., *Writing a Painting*, Adelaide Advertiser
- 2005 Nicholls, C., *New Work with Old Cultures*, Ceramics Art and Perception, Issue 59
- 2004 Bowers, S., *Australian Contemporary*, Ceramics Art and Perception, Issue 58,
- 2003 Walker, W., *Marine Nature in Porcelain*, Artlink, Vol 22  
 Osborne, M., *Light Black*, Object, July  
 Osborne, M., *Light Black*, Artlink, Vol. 23 No.2  
*Light Black*, Craft Victoria online
- 2002 Thwaites, V., *Marine Nature in Porcelain; the recent work of Robin Best*, Artlink, Vol. 22 No. 4  
*South Australian Ceramic Awards, 2002*, Ceramics Art and Perception, Issue 49
- 2001 *Robin Best; Recent Work*, Craft Arts International, No. 53  
 Artlink, Review SA Art, September  
*The Concertina Bowl*, Craft Bulletin, 1/2001
- 1997 Williams, J., *SA Designer Makers Turn to Industry*, Artlink Vol.17