

ADRIAN SASSOON

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 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 in the form of printed textiles, porcelain and lacquer ware as well as for the serialized stories of the natural history scientists who risked life and limb to bring back animals and plants for their private zoos and gardens.

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 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

- 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
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

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 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
- 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

Awards (continued)

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

Bibliography: Selected Articles & Essays

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

Bibliography: Selected Articles & Essays (continued)

- 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