

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 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 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

- 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
 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

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

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

Awards

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| 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 |

Awards (continued)

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| 1999 | 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

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|------|---|
| 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

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|------|---|
| 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
Grimma, V., <i>Robin Best on Living and Working in Jingdezhen China</i> , The Journal of Australian Ceramics, Vol. 53 No. 1 |
| 2008 | Walton, I., <i>A Secret History</i> , Ceramic Review, July/August
Bowers, S., <i>Robin Best</i> , Artlink, Vol. 28 No. 2
Osborne, M., <i>White Gold</i> , Adelaide Advertiser |

Bibliography: Selected Articles & Essays (continued)

- 2008 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