

Laurel Billington Artist Profile



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Laurel's background is in art teaching and ceramics. While more recently, she has renewed her interest in printmaking and painting.

Working with clay however, has been her most enduring pleasure. Her experience and production with this medium has extended over the past six decades, during which time her talent has been recognised with many ceramic awards.

Laurel's art -In developing each piece, much time is spent on research, design and message, with attention to detail and quality of colour being a defining characteristic of her work.

As a consequence, her output is limited and each pot, print, painting or sculpture is unique.

Laurel has a keen interest in furthering her knowledge and has continued artistic study whenever possible. She also gains much pleasure from viewing other artists work (both current and from the past), and takes the opportunity to do so whenever she travels throughout Australia and internationally.

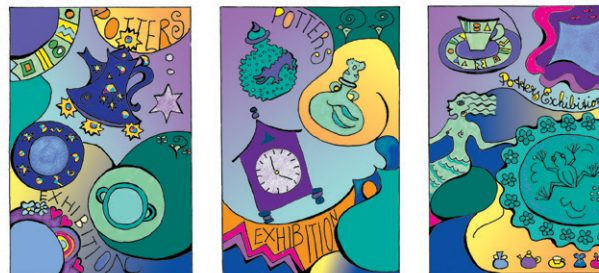
Laurel works from her studios in Drouin and Cape Paterson and enjoys being part of the diverse artistic talents in Gippsland.

Her work has been exhibited extensively locally and in Melbourne, with many of her pieces finding homes interstate and overseas.

Laurel Billington Curriculum Vitae

Education and Work History

- 1960-63** Trained as a Secondary Teacher Arts and Crafts at Melbourne Teachers College, Caulfield Tech. RMIT and Fine Arts A at Melbourne University
- 1964** Taught Art and Craft at Morwell High School
- 1965-71** Taught Art at Drouin High School
- 1971-Present** Attended and taught Adult Education Classes and workshops
- 1980-90** Employed to teach pottery and also extensively volunteered at Pindari Association for the Blind, Warragul
- 1987-88** Part time studies completed a Foundation in Art Ceramics and Design course at Outer Eastern College of TAFE
- 1997-2005** Part time studies at Dandenong College of TAFE (later Casey College and Chisholm Dandenong), Diploma of Design Ceramics Certificate of Art Studies for Printmaking and Computer Aided Design
Continued attendance at workshops and short classes



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Awards

- 2005** Baw Baw Shire Council Arts Acquisition Award and purchase
- 1996** Valley Potters Award for wheel throwing - Functional Ceramics
- 1995** Victorian Ceramic Group. Consolidated Refractories Award
- 1991** Encouragement Award, Valley Potters
- 1990** Shock Tactics Retail Marketing Non Functional Award, West Gippsland Arts and Crafts Group
- 1989** Valley Potters 11th Annual Exhibition Award
- 1988** Outstanding Achievement Foundations in Art Ceramics, Outer Eastern College of TAFE
- 1987** Acquisition Award Outer Eastern College of TAFE
- 1984-86** Crafts Council of Victoria - Selection for Regional Review exhibitions.

Local Awards

Rotary Club of Warragul Art and Craft Exhibitions

- 2011** Honourable Mention, Ceramics
- 2007** First Prize Ceramics, China Painting and Glassware
- 2006** Highly Commended Best Local Artist
- 2006** Highly Commended Ceramics, China Painting and Glassware
- 2005** 1st Prize Ceramics, China Painting and Glassware
- 2004** Highly Commended Contemporary
- 2003** Highly Commended Pottery
- 2001** Highly Commended Mixed Media
- 1999** 1st Prize Pottery
- 1996** 2nd Prize Ceramics
- 1995** First Prize Ceramics
- 1993** First Prize Ceramics
- 1990** Winner ceramics
- 1986** 2nd Prize Craft Ceramics
- 1985** 1st Prize Ceramics (Shire of Warragul Award)
- 1983** 1st Prize Pottery (Proceed Pottery Wheel Prize)

Yarragon Art Show Art and Craft Awards

- 2001** Highly Commended Ceramics and Highly Commended Other Medium
- 2000** Best Ceramic
- 1993** Town & Country Gallery Best Exhibit Art & Craft, St Paul's AGS Art Show

Bunyip Art Exhibition

- 1998 Winner Craft
- 1997 Winner Sculpture

Easter Gift Arts Festival

- 2011 Baw Baw Shire Award for "Best in Show"

Drouin Primary School and Ficifolia Art Exhibition Awards

- 3 years Annual art exhibition Winner Craft Section Award
- 2 years Annual art exhibition second place craft section
- 2015 Best Exhibit on a Theme
- 2013 Highly Commended Sculpture
- 2007 1st Prize Sculpture award

Exhibitions

Laurel has exhibited extensively throughout her career. She has participated in many group exhibitions locally, in regional Victoria, in Melbourne city and suburbs and internationally.

Venues have included: The Westpac Gallery at the Victorian Arts Centre Complex; The Meat Market Craft Centre, North Melbourne; The AMP Building, Bourke St Melbourne; The Victorian Artist Society Gallery; The Caulfield Arts Centre; Steppes Gallery Carlton; Without Pier Gallery, Sandringham; Sale Regional Gallery; Mornington Peninsula Gallery; The Eltham Wiregrass Gallery; Monash University, Clayton; McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park; The Kingston Arts Centre Moorabbin; Walker Street Gallery, Dandenong; Heritage Hill, Dandenong; The Highway Gallery, Mt Waverley; West Gippsland Arts Centre; Studio at Flinders; Box Hill Community Centre Gallery; Shepparton Art Gallery; and Baw Baw Arts Alliance, Yarragon.

Laurel has been a frequent exhibitor at ArtSpace Wonthaggi, where, in 2014 she held a very successful solo exhibition celebrating 50 years of art, titled *It's About Time*.

Not all exhibitions have been listed due to missing documentation but best effort has been made. The past decade has seen Laurel extensively involved in care duties necessitating less time creating and exhibiting.

Victorian Ceramic Group

- 1998 Monash University Austceram Conference (selected VCG Exhibition)
- 1996-97, 1999 Potters Showcase
- 1993 Clay Fever at the Meat Market Craft Centre, North Melbourne
- 1982 Caulfield Art Centre

Other exhibitions with the VCG have been the Without Pier Gallery, The Box Hill Community Centre, Eltham Wiregrass Gallery, Steppes Gallery Carlton and Mornington Peninsula Gallery.

Valley Potters

- 2003, 2006-7 The Kingston Arts Centre
- 1997, 1999-2000 Walker St Gallery, Dandenong
- 1993, 1996 The Narre Warren Library
- 1988 - 1991 Clayton Auditorium
- * Studio at Flinders
- * The Old Berwick Cheese Factory

Gippsland Ceramic Artists Association

- 1990 Sale Regional Gallery
- * Moe
- * The AMP Building (selected Marketing exhibition)

West Gippsland Division of the Crafts Council of Victoria (later the West Gippsland Arts and Craft Group)

- 1986, 1997 - 98, 2002 West Gippsland Arts Centre
- 1985, 1989 Crafts Council of Victoria Selected exhibitor at the Meat Market Craft Centre and the Westpac Gallery

College Exhibitions as Adult Student

- * Old Berwick Cheese Factory *Just Dandy, Thrown Together*
- * Heritage Hill Dandenong
- * J. Space, Casey College of TAFE
- * Westpac Gallery, Victorian Arts Centre Melbourne (Walker Ceramic Award Exhibition 1996)

Dandenong College of TAFE - (Later Casey College of TAFE and Chisholm Dandenong)

- 1995 Beyond the Surface. Assoc. Dip of Art Ceramics
- 1993 AMP Building, Bourke St Melbourne Turning Point. Associate Dip of Art Ceramics

Outer Eastern College of TAFE

- 1998 Outer Eastern Exhibition Space, Wantirna

Arts Gippsland and Warragul Rotary Club Exhibitions

- 1974-75 Exhibition Hall, Warragul
- Since 1981 West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul (regular exhibitor)

Drouin Primary School and Ficifolia Exhibitions

Regularly since inception

Other Exhibitions

- 1994 Caulfield Arts Centre P.O.T. invitation exhibition, *Objects of Desire*
- 1997 - 98 Bunyip Art Exhibitions
- 1998 RSPCA exhibition at the Victorian Artists Society Gallery
- * Shepparton Art Gallery Australia Day Exhibition, Sponsored by Myer, selected exhibition
- 2000 - 01 Yarragon Art Show
- 2001 City of Casey, Civic Centre Art Space Narre Warren *Tea for Two*
- 2005 - 06 Baw Baw Shire Art Acquisition Invitation Exhibition at the West Gippsland Arts Centre
- 2011 Easter Gift Arts Festival Drouin, Old Drouin Butter Factory
- 2011 Group Exhibition, Gippsland Artists to Canada
- 2014 ArtSpace Wonthaggi, Solo Exhibition. *It's About Time*
- 2016 ArtSpace Wonthaggi, Invitation Exhibition *The Year of the Printmaker*
- 2012-Present ArtSpace Wonthaggi, frequent exhibitor including *Arts Print* and *Winter Solstice* exhibitions. Also 2022 *Artists Past and Present 10 Year Exhibition*.