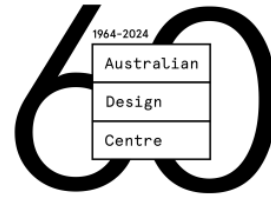


Media Release
Australian Design Centre
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Sean O'Connell's kettles are laboriously formed from stainless steel sheet. Photo: Mel De Ruyter

Shine on: Kettles with character by Sean O'Connell

Australian Design Centre is delighted to welcome multi-talented designer maker Sean O'Connell with his ***Kettles*** exhibition from **21 March to 4 May 2024** in the Object Space window gallery on William Street, Darlinghurst.

Sean is a jewellery and metal worker based in Tasmania who practices across many different forms and materials. His beautiful sculptural kettles are designed to add a deep sense of joy to the everyday act of boiling water. Individually formed from stainless steel sheet, each is finely made as a unique object, hammered, welded, filed, sanded and polished into its final shape.

The character of each form evolves as a dance between the desire of the maker, the stubborn will of stainless steel, and the shaping processes that speak between them. Handles of reclaimed celerytop pine, endemic to Tasmania, add a soft, tactile touch. The kettles are designed to last for years as both practical kitchen appliance and works of art. They can be used with gas, electric or induction cooktops.

Sean says, "I make these kettles because I love working with metal in direct ways. I am constantly amazed how the forms come about and change all by themselves, as though the steel has its own ideas - we start going somewhere and end up somewhere else. It's a very different way of making to the very prescribed processes I use to create my jewellery, where I design something and follow the plan. It's much more fun!"

"I also make these kettles because I think simple things, like boiling water for morning coffee, should be cherished. It helps centre our lives in the here and now, and really appreciate the mundane everyday acts. I'd like to think these kettles, with their simple joyous forms and shiny reflective surfaces, act as a kind of pivot and anchor for the day, helping to bring things into perspective. I know - it's a lot to ask of a kettle!"

Kettles

stainless steel, reclaimed celerytop pine, leather
\$2000 each

About Sean O'Connell

Sean lives in subalpine Tasmania on the shores of yingina/Great Lake. He grew up in the Blue Mountains near Sydney and did a PhD at Sydney College of the Arts. Sean's practice spans jewellery, metalwork, photography, and sculpture - the common thread is a deep love of materials. He works in very intimate and laborious ways, preferring to engage closely and directly with materials and processes.



Sean has won awards in Australia and internationally and is represented in several state and national collections. His work was shown in the inaugural National Gallery of Victoria Triennial and won the Itami Award at the Itami International Craft Exhibition in Japan.

For high-res images please see [here](#).

Key dates for Australian Design Centre's 60th year in 2024

- **8, 15, 22 & 29 May** Design Futures 2084 (speaker series looking 60 years ahead)
- **16 May** ADC's 60th Birthday Party (featuring our Living Treasures designer makers)
- **23 May** 60 Cups Morning Tea (with 60 bespoke teacups by Australian ceramicists)
- **11-20 October** Sydney Craft Week (with 60 open studios)
- **21 November to 29 January 2025** *Re/JOY: Vipoo Srivilasa* exhibition

For more exhibitions, events and ADC on tour, see [here](#).

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Acknowledgement of Country

Australian Design Centre is proud to be a creative place located on Gadigal Country. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Owners, the Gadigal People, and to Elders past and present. As a cultural organisation with national connections, we also pay our respects to all First Peoples across the country, and acknowledge that the lands on which we live and work are unceded.

About Australian Design Centre

Established in 1964, Australian Design Centre is an independent impact organisation based in Sydney. We support and promote Australia's innovative designer makers, established and emerging, and encourage people to engage with design, craft and creativity through dynamic and high-quality national touring exhibitions, publishing, digital and educational activities.

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