



## **Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft | Prue Venables**

The new exhibition *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft | Prue Venables* presents an outstanding body of work by one of Australia's greatest artists working in clay opens at Australian Design Centre on 1 August.

Acclaimed ceramicist Prue Venables is the ninth artist in the Australian Design Centre series *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft*, which celebrates the achievements of Australia's most iconic crafts practitioners. The series of solo exhibitions honours eminent and highly respected craftspeople, celebrating their mastery of skill, their achievements, their contribution to Australian craft, and the unique place they occupy in the national design culture.

Prue Venables show a true mastery of materials. She demonstrate a profound understanding of porcelain, that most precious and temperamental of clays, whose fine-grain and opaque qualities are expressed in rigorous works of refined detail. Her handmade functional artworks possess clarity, luminosity and a quiet beauty.

Many of the works also feature wood and metal elements formed as handles, joints and other connecting pieces. Prue Venables' forms are simple and elegant, with a minimal colour palette and subtle exaggerations – an oval lip or an elongated handle – that create a distinctive visual language.

“Prue Venables' ceramic works are at once familiar, echoing domestic forms, exquisitely beautiful in their etched shapes, delicate textures and luminosity, and supremely graceful,” said Lisa Cahill, CEO and Artistic Director of Australian Design Centre.

“It is a pleasure and a privilege to honour Prue Venables as the ninth artist to be recognised in the series,” said Cahill.

The project includes a touring exhibition, book and film, as well as public programs, digital content and an education kit.

*Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft \ Prue Venables* was researched and developed under a Visions of Australia research grant and is ADC's major national touring exhibition for 2019 - 2022. The tour is supported by the Visions of Australia program and Australia Council for the Arts.

The book, supported by Gordon Darling Foundation, provides an in-depth insight into Prue's life and work, with essays by acclaimed UK-based potter and writer Alison Britton and Australian ceramicist Neville French.

### **About Prue Venables**

Numerous national and international exhibitions, awards and publications celebrate the fine porcelain work of Prue Venables.

Included in many public and private collections worldwide, these pots explore complex and unusual approaches to working with porcelain, challenge the significance of daily objects and highlight the richness that they bring to our lives.

Forms are deceptively simple, stand quietly, with light dancing on the sprung tension of their rims, their softly melting forms inviting touch.

Prue Venables is a multi-award winning, major Australian ceramicist. Educated at the Harrow College of Art in London with a Masters of Fine Art – Ceramics from RMIT, Prue has been practising her craft since 1977.

With a distinguished exhibition history, Prue has also mentored and taught generations of ceramicists. Prue's work is collected by major institutions and public galleries and private institutions in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, UK, USA, Canada, Japan.

She is a former President of Craft Victoria, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in London.

### **Exhibition tour venues and dates**

Australian Design Centre, Sydney 1 August - 25 September 2019

Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, VIC 18 October - 1 December 2019

Hamilton Gallery, VIC 16 December 2019 - 9 February 2020

Redland Art Gallery, QLD 15 March - 26 April 2020

Cairns Regional Gallery, QLD 8 May - 21 June 2020

Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW 3 July - 23 August 2020

Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC 31 October 2020 - 7 February 2021

Design Tasmania, TAS 26 February - 25 April 2021

Jam Factory, SA 7 May - 11 June 2021

Bunbury Regional Art Gallery, WA 3 September - 14 November 2021

Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, NSW 2 December 2021 - 13 February 2022

Noosa Regional Gallery, QLD 4 March - 1 May 2022

Newcastle Art Gallery, NSW 28 May - 7 August 2022

Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW 20 August - 2 October 2022



**What:** *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft \ Prue Venables*

**Where:** Australian Design Centre then 13 venues nationally

**Opening event:** Thursday 1 August, 6 -8pm launched by Adrian Collette, CEO Australia Council for the Arts. Media are welcome to attend. Please RSVP [here](#).

**Explore the**

**website:** <https://australiandesigncentre.com/prue-venables/>

Also opening: Isabel Avendano Hazbun, *GIANTS* (Gallery II) and Jane Theau, *Just shopping, always shopping* (Object Space).

**For media enquiries** including images or interviews please contact: Alix Fiveash, Partnerships and Communications Manager ADC ph: 02 9361 4555 or email [alix@australiandesigncentre.com](mailto:alix@australiandesigncentre.com)

### **About Australian Design Centre**

Australian Design Centre (ADC) is an independent contemporary craft and design organisation igniting creative ideas and building cultural vibrancy. Through our exhibition, festival, touring, retail, publishing and learning platforms, we take a lead role developing and supporting Australia's makers and designers and building audiences for their work across Australia and internationally.



Australian Design Centre is supported by the generosity of our partners and donors, the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments, the New South Wales Government through Create NSW, the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body, and the City of Sydney. Australian Design Centre is a member of Australian Craft and Design Centres network and the Sydney Culture Network.

Australian Design Centre is proud to be a creative place located on Gadigal Land. We acknowledge with respect the traditional owners the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation.

Image credit: Prue Venables, *Black triangulated form* and *Black pedestal bowl*, 2019. Photos: Terence Bogue. Lower: Prue Venables, *Black bowl and pierced ladle*, 2005. Photo: Terence Bogue.



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