



SHAPING SPACE | HOLDING SPACE

Deanne Jecks, Coby McDougall, Paul O'Connor, Tracey Pinker,
Stella Sulak, Emma Vinkovic, Lauren Wright

26 February — 23 April 2022

SHAPING SPACE | HOLDING SPACE

Shaping Space | Holding Space is a group exhibition by ceramic artists Coby McDougall, Deanne Jecks, Emma Vinkovic, Lauren Wright, Paul O'Connor, Stella Sulak and Tracey Pinker. Their work explores one of the fundamental principles of ceramics - the manipulation of space. When creating a vessel, it is not the shape that the maker focuses on but rather the space it contains. Space can be interpreted in both a literal and abstract sense and each artist has chosen to explore it through their own lens.



image: Deanne Jecks, *to break, and enter*, 2022, porcelain and black stoneware

A shared space is what brought this group of individuals together. We are all connected in various ways to ClayMake Studio, and have become connected to one another through the sharing of the physical studio space. We now share and shape the space held within the East Gallery of Midland Junction Arts Centre.



Crowded (detail), 2022
porcelain, black stoneware

TRACEY PINKER

My ceramic works are rooted in the principles of visual space. Texture, scale and contrast define them. Negative space, both within the dynamic contrast of the mixed clays and between the ceramic elements was the main exploration of this work.

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EMMA VINKOVIC

There's a concept that the subconscious mind takes the shape of a city - I am seeking to create the city that sits in my head. Surreal cityscapes of interlocking staircases, archways to nowhere, all urging you to peer around that corner, to look down the other path, creating spaces that evoke a feeling of curiosity and discovery.

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The Space Between (detail), 2022
porcelain

LAUREN WRIGHT

The Space Between encourages the viewer to contemplate what is absent while they examine what remains present. Each sphere's unique patterns and rhythms mirror those found in nature as well as in our everyday lives.

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Thoughts of Cities (detail), 2022
stoneware clay

PAUL O'CONNOR

When I was a kid, I didn't want to grow up to be an Astronaut, a Fireman, or a Doctor. I wanted to be a Werewolf. In children's stories I never related to the Prince, the Huntsman, or the Hero. I was fascinated by the Beast. The space between dreams and reality is immeasurable and unpredictable but filled with promise and adventure. Run with the pack or remain the lone wolf... make, create, and tell your own tales.

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Get a Little Bit of Sun (Not Too Much), 2022
stoneware clay

COBY MCDUGALL

Through this work, I have examined the concept of space as an act of self care. These friendly creatures of care are meant to remind us of what matters the most: having a space in which you feel completely at ease and yourself; giving yourself the space to grow freely and expansively in varying directions; feeling free and able to take up all the space you need; providing a space for others to feel safe to be true and honest; allowing the space to just breathe and be still.

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Beasts Lurk In My Garden, 2022
recycled clay, twigs

STELLA SULAK

I refute the norms whereby nature is seen as separate from humans. I believe we are indivisible and all connected. We are shaped as a whole. We are all linked to each other and of each other and it is not possible to see either without the other. The links (chain links) that exist between man and nature were unbroken for millennia until man decided he could 'control' nature thus causing a split between the two worlds.

It's time to restore this link, it's time that humans become part of nature again.

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to break, and enter (detail), 2022
porcelain, black stoneware

DEANNE JECKS

The torus shape encircles space at its centre and encloses it within. Breaking into each piece exposes and draws attention to the inner space. Repeating the shape forms a channel, approached from different angles it is either blocked and protected or open to enter.

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Shaping the Space of Our Future (detail), 2022
stoneware clay

We, the artists, would like to thank Midland Junction Arts Centre for having us, ClayMake Studio for forming our community, Aliesha Mafriqi for taking beautiful photos of our work, and Janet Hummerston for opening our exhibition and for her positivity and support.

We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we display this work, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

Cover image: Lauren Wright, *The Space Between*, 2022, porcelain.

Midland Junction Arts Centre

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Midland Junction Arts Centre respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we operate, the Whadjuk people, as well as other First Australians connected with this land. We pay our respects to Elders both past and present.