

SHAPING SPACE | HOLDING SPACE

26 FEBRUARY 2022 - 23 APRIL 2022
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On display at Midland Junction Arts Centre from 26 February – 23 April, *Shaping Space | Holding Space* explores one of the fundamental principles of ceramics – the manipulation of space. This exhibition will be accompanied by *Made in Midland*; a pop-up shop showcasing works by the talented tutors, artists in residence and students who have contributed to making Midland Junction Arts Centre the creative hub it is today.

When creating a ceramic vessel, it is not the shape the maker focuses on, but rather the space it contains. Space can be interpreted in both a literal and abstract sense. The exhibiting artists in *Shaping Space | Holding Space* are Coby McDougall, Emma Vinkovic, Lauren Wright, Tracey Pinker, Paul O'Connor, Stella Sulak, and Deanne Jecks. Each artist has chosen to explore the concept of space through their own lens.



Coby McDougall, *Safe Space*, 2021, stoneware clay, 12 x 13 x 7cm. Photograph by Aliessa Mafrić.

Coby McDougall is a Canadian-born ceramicist, artist, and designer, whose work *Safe Space*, featured in the exhibition, envisages space in terms of self-care. These “friendly creatures of care” are intended to remind us of the importance of having the space to be yourself and grow freely and providing a space for others to be honest and feel safe.

McDougall received a degree in graphic design from Vancouver Island University in 2014 and pursued her interest in ceramics with a certificate from NSCAD University in 2019. Her works are often quirky and colourful, made using a combination of wheel-throwing and hand building techniques. She works from her home studio and at ClayMake; an open access studio in Maylands where she teaches beginners.

Emma Vinkovic is a second-generation ceramicist who spent much of her childhood in a ceramics studio. She started working as a ceramicist full-time five years ago, launching her own label ERV Ceramics. She is also the co-owner of ClayMake, where she takes great joy in sharing her love of clay with others.

Vinkovic works with locally sourced clays and other ceramic materials. She creates surreal cityscapes using the universal building blocks of architecture and stripping them of any embellishments associated with specific places or time periods. In *The Idea of a City*, exhibited in *Shaping Space | Holding Space*, Vinkovic explores the idea that the unconscious mind takes the shape of a city – an ever-changing space that we can build and inhabit.



Emma Vinkovic, *The Idea of a City*, 2021, blended stoneware clay, 24 x 54 x 38cm. Photograph by Aliessa Mafrić.

Exhibiting artist Lauren Wright’s *The Space Between* encourages us to contemplate what is absent while looking at what is present. Using a freehand approach, she has created numerous spheres with unique rhythms and patterns that reflect those found in our day-to-day lives. Wright finds the repletion around us every day intriguing, as it is simultaneously simplistic and complex.



Lauren Wright, *The Space Between*, 2021, porcelain, 3 cm² - 12 cm². Photograph by Aliesha Mafrici.

Wright has been working with ceramics since 2018. She was initially drawn to the wheel, but quickly became captivated by the creative possibilities of hand building. Wright works with a range of high-fire clay bodies and has recently started incorporating materials that she has collected while travelling throughout Western Australia.

Tracey Pinker has been experimenting with ceramics for nearly three years, making decorative pieces, functional wares, and wall art. As an interior designer, she enjoys creating works that can be used to enhance areas and facilitate personal expression. Made using hand building techniques, her works are earthy and textured, celebrating clay by retaining a link to the material's origins.

In line with her interest in interior design, Pinker has long been fascinated by the spaces we inhabit. *Caught*, her work for the exhibition, is a mindful assessment of the spaces we reserve for art and objects in our homes. Pinker examines the impact that these spaces can have on our environments, and the relevance of spaces within the works themselves.

Shaping Space | Holding Space will be showcased alongside *Made in Midland*, a pop-up shop celebrating half a decade of creative endeavours at Midland Junction Arts Centre.



Tracey Pinker, *Caught*, 2021, black clay and porcelain unglazed, copper wire, cotton, 90 x 110cm. Photograph by Aliesha Mafrici.

Discover the ingenuity and expertise involved in ceramics with *Shaping Space | Holding Space* on display in the East Gallery at Midland Junction Arts Centre, before migrating to the West Gallery to peruse the exceptional works showcased in *Made in Midland*. *Shaping Space | Holding Space* and *Made in Midland* are on display from 26 February – 23 April.

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Midland Junction Arts Centre

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Wed – Fri 10am – 5pm, Sat 11am – 3pm

