

MEDIA RELEASE

**RECOLLECT: CERAMICS
GRAND CERAMIC STATEMENTS**



'Welcome to the Herb Alpert Pleasure Dome'
Brian Doar, Australia, 1996



'Forms in Succession #5'
Shigekazu Nagae, Seto, Japan, 2011



'Aloe blossom'
Jeremy Cole, London, England, 2006

A collection of Australia's most striking ceramic objects will be on display in ***Recollect: Ceramics*** curated by Eva Czernis Ryl opening at the **Powerhouse Museum** on 21 May.

Recollect: Ceramics celebrates milestones from the 1600s to today, showcasing the myriad ways clay has been used in creating both functional and artistic objects. The exhibition spans themes such as art and industry, Indigenous ceramics, glazes and contemporary sculpture, and features rare historic pieces alongside contemporary acquisitions.

Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS) Director, **Dolla Merrillees** said the exhibition coincides with a renewed widespread interest in ceramics.

"*Recollect: Ceramics* celebrates the depth and diversity of the Museum's extensive historical and contemporary ceramics collection drawn from across the world. Generations of artists have combined creative ideas and technical skills to transform raw clay into an infinite variety of ceramic works and juxtaposing ceramics from different cultures allows us to explore their innate influence on each other," said Ms Merrillees.

Recollect: Ceramics is the latest in the MAAS *Recollect* series, an exhibition program that draws upon key MAAS curatorial disciplines to display the museum's vast and rich object collection. *Recollect: Ceramics* opens 21 May 2016 and runs until 12 February 2017. To date, this exhibition series has seen a 20% increase in the amount of the vast MAAS collection on public display.

***Recollect: Ceramics* highlights**



Satirical bust of Baron Schmiedel, Meissen, Germany
1739, hard-paste porcelain

This satirical portrait bust of the court jester known as Baron Schmiedel, was ordered by Augustus the Strong, King of Poland (ruled 1694-1733) and Elector of Saxony who established Europe's first true or hard-paste porcelain factory in 1710. Acquired by the Museum in 1950, the intriguing bust is one of only three examples of this design known to exist, and is among the most important objects in the Museum's decorative arts collection.



Wanampi Muni Ngintaka, Ernabella Arts, Australia/China
1995, stoneware

This monumental vessel was decorated by Derek Jungarrayi Thompson during the first Indigenous artist residency in China; it was fired in Wu Workshop in Jingdezhen. Indigenous motifs of the large snake and lizard are featured against traditional Chinese clouds.



The Swan Vase, Wedgwood, England
1875, earthenware

This Wedgwood vase was modeled and painted by some of the best ceramic artists available at the time of its production and displayed at three international exhibitions: in Paris in 1878, in Sydney in 1879 and in Melbourne in 1880. The complex design and scale of the vase highlights the importance of Australian markets to leading English manufacturers at the time.



Forms in Succession #5, Japan
2011, slip-cast porcelain

Shigekazu Nagae is one of Japan's leading porcelain artists, who innovatively adapts the industrial process of slip-casting to create unique works that evoke origami, the traditional Japanese technique of paper folding.



Royal wine coolers, Sèvres, France
1770, soft-paste porcelain

These wine coolers are part of a dinner service ordered by Madame du Barry, mistress of the French king Louis XV, to celebrate the marriage of his grandson and heir to the 16-year old Marie Antoinette of Austria.

Recollect: Ceramics

21 May 2016 – 12 February 2017

The Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris Street, Ultimo NSW 2007

maas.museum/event/recollect-ceramics

Admission: Free with general admission \$15 adult, \$8 concession, children 16 years and under free

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About the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences

The Powerhouse Museum, alongside Sydney Observatory and the Museum Discovery Centre, is part of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), Australia's contemporary museum for excellence and innovation in applied arts and sciences. The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences has a vast and diverse collection of over 500,000 objects.