
Anna-Karina Hermkens

Contact Details

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Artist biography

I am an emerging artist in the second half of my life (born 1969), igniting my enduring passion for the arts after an almost two decades long academic career. In 1989, I obtained a Propaedeutic diploma (propedeuse) from the Academy of Fine Arts, Maastricht, Netherlands. After another year of training in sculpture, I left the Academy to study Archaeology, and Cultural Anthropology, specialising in Pacific art, gender, religion, and conflict. Since my PhD (2005) I have been working as a researcher and lecturer, most recently at Macquarie University in Sydney. In 2013, I enrolled in the 'Diploma in Ceramics' program at TAFE in Hornsby, obtaining my diploma (with distinction) in 2016. Since then, I have been in the process of establishing my own studio and producing a body of work.

In 2017, I was a finalist in the Gosford Ceramic Art Prize with two stoneware vessels and I have participated in a few local group exhibitions with some of my ceramic work. Drawing upon my anthropological research on processes of becoming, and more specifically, on how human/nature interactions, and beliefs and values are materialised, my ceramic work focuses on shapes, or forms -sometimes combined with etchings and paintings-, and the interplay between positive and negative space. In doing so, I aim to explore, convey and interrogate enactments of aesthetic agency and power, but also of fragility and decay.

Qualifications

- 2016 Diploma in Ceramics. TAFE, Hornsby, Australia.
- 2005 PhD in Cultural Anthropology (Social Sciences)
Institute for Gender Studies and Department of Cultural Anthropology,
Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands
- 1989 Propaedeutic diploma (propedeuse) Academy of Fine Arts, Maastricht,
Netherlands

Training

- 2018 Juz Kitson workshop at the Central Coast Potter Society (Friday 2 -Sunday 4 March 2018)
- 2017 Open Studio Ceramics at TAFE, Hornsby NSW.
- 2017 Throwing lessons from Maarten Damen at Camac-machi Studio in Roermond, Netherlands (January 2017)
- 2016 Katherine Mahoney workshop at the Central Coast Potter Society (Saturday 27-Sunday 28 August)
- 2016 John Tuckwell workshop at the Central Coast Potter Society (Saturday 18 – Sunday 19 June)

- 2016 Cathy Franzi workshop at the Central Coast Potter Society (Friday 15-Sunday 17 July)
- 2014 Somchai Charoen workshop at the Central Coast Potter Society (Saturday 16-Sunday 17 August)

Exhibitions and prizes

- 2020 “Beings” Exhibition of 19 ceramic works at Humble House Gallery in Canberra together with painter Deborah Van Heekeren (19 November-6 December 2020).
- 2018 Part of the “Lines of Inspiration” exhibition with three (MR) ceramic vessels titled “Triangulation”. Central Coast Potters Society 50th Anniversary, at the Gosford Regional Gallery (26 May-15 July 2018).
- 2017 Finalist Gosford Ceramic Art Prize with two stoneware vessels titled “Contained I and II”, Gosford Regional Gallery, 23 September-26 November 2017).
- 2017 Wyong Art Centre, exhibition of three ceramic stoneware vessels and several porcelain sgraffito vessels, organised by Tuggerah Lakes Art (May 2017)
- 2017 Multi-Arts Fair, Yarramalong Community Center, several stoneware vessels, sculptures and small porcelain sgraffito vessels. First Prize awarded to one of the stoneware vessels by judge John Barnes (April 23, 2017).

Publications on art

Hermkens, A. and K. Lepani (eds.) 2017. *Sinuous Objects. Revaluing Women’s Wealth in the Contemporary Pacific*. Canberra: ANU Press.

Hermkens, A. and K. Lepani. 2017. ‘Revaluing Women’s Wealth and Work in the Contemporary Pacific.’ In *Sinuous Objects. Women’s Wealth in the Contemporary Pacific*, edited by A. Hermkens and K. Lepani. Canberra: ANU E-Press, pp.1-36.

Hermkens, Anna-Karina. 2017. ‘Women’s Wealth and Moral Economies among the Maisin in Collingwood Bay, Papua New Guinea.’ In *Sinuous Objects. Women’s Wealth in the Contemporary Pacific*, edited by A. Hermkens and K. Lepani. Canberra: ANU E-Press, pp.91-124.

Hermkens, A. 2015. Mediations of Cloth: Tapa and Personhood among the Maisin in Papua New Guinea. In *Gender and Personhood in Oceania*. Edited by A. Hermkens, J. Taylor and R. Morgain. *Oceania* 85(1): 10-23.

Hermkens, A. 2015. ‘Dynamics of Barkcloth and Identity among the Maisin of Papua New Guinea.’ In *Made in Oceania: Proceedings of the International Symposium on the social and cultural meanings of Oceanic tapa*. Edited by P. P. Mesenhöller et al. UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp. 15-28.

Hermkens, A. 2013. *Engendering Objects: Dynamics of Barkcloth and Gender among the Maisin of Papua New Guinea*. Leiden: Sidestone Press.

Hermkens, A. 2011. 'Silent (Hi)stories: Women Artists in two Melanesian Societies.' In *Pacific Island Artists: Navigating the Global Art World*. Edited by Karen Stevenson. Oakland, USA: Masalai Press, 34-49.

Hermkens, A. 2007. Gendered Objects. Embodiments of colonial collecting in Dutch New Guinea. *Journal of Pacific History* 42(1): 1-20.

Hermkens, A. 2007. Stretching the cloth. Hybrid meanings, styles, and gender structures in Maisin barkcloth. *Journal of Pacific Arts* 3-5: 104-114.

Blog-posts

Hermkens, A. 2016. Reaching across the Ocean. For the *Pacific Presences*. *Oceanic Art & European Museums* project. <http://pacificpresences.maa.cam.ac.uk/blog-2/>

Hermkens, A. 2016. Exhibition review of George Gittoes' 'I Witness' at the Gosford regional Gallery (April 8-May 22). <http://anthropologist-in-art.com/blog>

Hermkens, A. 2016. Exhibition review of Grayson Perry's 'My Pretty little Art Career' at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (10 December 2015-1 May 2016). <http://anthropologist-in-art.com/blog>

Membership (Artistic)

Central Coast Potter Society (CCPS)

Tuggerah Lakes Potters Society

The Australian Ceramic Association (TACA)