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## ***Anna-Karina Hermkens***

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### **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 50<sup>th</sup> 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)