

# Stanley Street gallery

## Anthony Bond

### Artist Statement

My family spent many years holidaying at Pebbly Beach circa 1985-2000 and each year I went out on the first day and collected the clay which was plentiful if a bit gritty. Over night I would crumble it up and soak it and then rapidly dry and wedge it on top of the concrete septic tank. Once you got the grit and roots out of it the clay was perfectly workable if a bit unpredictable. I was never quite sure about the firing properties of this clay and made the decision not to fire my forms. In part this decision reflected my love of the polished surface you can get by burnishing ash into leathery clay. The nature of the raw clay is hard to control I always start with two hand formed pinch pots joined together then start pulling and pushing, patting and whacking to create whatever hollow form I think it might become.

The final form is only partly derived from my concept and is often at least 50% a result of clay taking its own direction and me doing my best to take advantage of what it wanted to do. This is to me an exemplary way to get through life, it might not suit everyone but I think it comes close to the source of creativity as an accommodation of the artist's body and the materials at hand and in particular natural forces. This process could be thought of as a surrealist methodology akin to reading Rorschach blots or discovering the last judgement in a soot stained wall. An artist/psychotherapist Bracha Lichtenberg-Ettinger from the Sorbonne in Paris once stayed with us and offered to psychoanalyse me on the basis of my pots that she seemed to find very erotic, I declined but she became very friendly after that for some reason.

### Bio

Anthony Bond OAM is a freelance writer and curator until recently Director Curatorial at the Art Gallery of NSW where he was responsible for collecting and displaying International contemporary art since 1984. He publishes in journals and catalogues here and overseas. He curated The British Show that toured Australia and New Zealand in 1985. He has curated two international Biennales one in Sydney 1992 one in UK 1999. He has also curated historical exhibitions such as Body 1997 and Self Portrait: Renaissance to Contemporary for the National Portrait Gallery London and AGNSW Sydney 2005-6. Anselm Kiefer Aperiatur terra 2006-2007 at White Cube London and at AGNSW. Francis Bacon: five decades November 2012 at AGNSW. The Ghost who talks An exhibition of Mike Parr's recent performance videos shown at Venice Biennale June through November 2015. His recent book The idea of art New South Press Sydney was officially launched at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in August 2015.