

Stanley Street gallery

Bic Tieu

About Auspicious Forms

Between Auspicious Forms presents a collection of small intricate vessels and wearables pieces by Bic Tieu that explore the rituals and cultural expressions of her Chinese heritage against the Australian household landscape.

Using the rich symbolism of traditional Chinese culture, Tieu utilises the vessel form and the concept of containment in her contemporary interpretation of traditional Japanese lacquering techniques. Tieu is widely considered to be Australia's leading exponent in this field and is currently undertaking her PHD at ANU in Canberra.

"I consider the 'vessel' as an analogy for heritage, family and culture. I am investigating auspicious and spiritual assumptions associated with traditional values. The circumference of the container and the space it holds reflects [for me], the divide between beliefs and superstitions".

The imagery Tieu inscribes into the surface of the vessel forms reference traditional Chinese graphic motifs such as floral themes, water and cloud forms all of which hold a symbolic importance in Chinese culture.

Between Auspicious Forms is an exceptional exhibition of exquisite beauty and meaning.

Bio

Bic began her design and jewellery education at the University of NSW College of Fine Arts, where she completed bachelor of Design and Masters Design/honours degrees. Bic's background has always been in design and jewellery making which later led to a masterclass workshop with the renowned German jeweller Otto Kunzli followed by an internship with Swiss born jeweller Sabine Pagan of Pymont Object Studios.

Her practice further developed through a residency with metal master Toru Kaneko in Tohoku, Japan. Bic's fascination with East Asian lacquer and her desire to recreate the characteristics of maki-e led to the heart and origins of Asia's lacquering birthplaces. To further her knowledge, Bic first spent some time in Vietnam - where she created a body of works and authored dissertation titled 'Traditional Processes of Vietnamese Lacquer and Their Application to Contemporary Jewellery and Small Scale Body related Objects' coupled with an exhibition at the Kudos Gallery in 2006.

Not long after the success of her exhibition, Bic was invited by Japanese lacquer master to take up a formal two-year residency at the world-famous Kitamura Koubou Studios in Wajima Japan where she honed her skills and craft of this wondrous tradition. Bic continues to work on her craft and gives talks and workshops at various local and international design conferences. She has won design awards, received various grants and residencies through Asialink and the Australia Council for the Arts. Her continued research often extends to projects, exhibitions and print publications.

CV

Education

2017 - PhD Candidature - ANU | Gold & Silversmithing
2003 - 2007 Master of Design (Honours) - UNSW | Art & Design
1998 - 2002 Bachelor of Design - UNSW | Art & Design

Professional Work Practice

2017- Associate lecturer UNSW Art&Design | Convenor of Jewellery and Object
Freelance designer/product development
2011- 2016 Sessional Lecturer for: Jewellery & Objects Department, UNSW | Art & Design
Freelance designer | product development services for other businesses
2009 - 2011 Professional Residency with lacquer master Kitamura Tatsuo of Kitamura Koubou, Wajima, Japan.
2005 - 2008 Jewellery Designer for Intercontinental Jewellery Sourcing and Services Australasia

International Residencies & Studio Masterclass Workshops

2013 - 2014 Studio Workshopped Residency

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- 2009 - 2011 Designer in residence between November 2013-January 2014 and April 2014-June 2014
Kitamura Koubou Lacquer Studio
Ian Potter Cultural Grant, Asialink Grant, Hermanns Imports (private sponsorship) and Mrs Gandel (private sponsorship) to undertake residency training in traditional Japanese lacquering techniques.
- 2007 Japan Residencies: 1) Tohoku University of Art & Design/Metal Department 2) Kitamura Koubou Lacquer Studio
Australia Council Grant to undertake a 6 week residency to investigate traditional Japanese lacquer and metal techniques applied to a series of contemporary jewellery and objects.
- 2006 Professor Toru Kaneko Masterclass, RMIT University, School of Gold and Silversmithing
Participated in Lacquer seminar and demonstration held at Hamilton Art Gallery
- 2004 Grant & Studio Residency, Field Research Trip, Studio Lacquer Vietnam
The College of Fine Arts/UNSW Masters(hons) Design research fund for a 3 months field trip investigating Vietnamese Lacquering Processes and its Application to Contemporary Jewellery and Small Scale Body Related Objects.
- 2003 Otto Kunzli Masterclass, Sydney College of the Arts, The University of Sydney

Publications

- 2015 Michelle Genders, Honed Exhibition Catalogue, <https://honedexhibitioncatalogue.wordpress.com/>
Bic Tieu, 2015, A Shimmering Practice: Japanese Lacquer Art, The Journal of the Asian Arts Society of Australia
TAASA Review / Asian Women Artists, Volume 24, No.4, p.18-19
- 2014 Object Video, Bic Tieu - Journeys in Australian Design, Micro Documentary:
http://object.com.au/learning/video-audio-gallery/entry/bic_tieu_resolved_journeys_in_australian_design/
- 2013 Ian Potter Cultural Trust, Ian Potter Cultural Trust Gala Artist Video.
Emily Howes, 2013, Under the Surface, Lexus Magazine, Issue 40, p.44
- 2012 COFA/School of design studies, Red Objects / Cross Pollination, catalogue & website
www.redobjects.unsw.edu.au
- 2010 Workshopped 10, catalogue & website,
http://www.workshopped.com.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=86
Ideas + Art + Design, Asialink Grant, Incubate, Issue 5, 2010, p.59
- 2009 Ian Potter Cultural Trust Report, Craft and Design, 2009, p.10
- 2008 Workshopped 08, catalogue & website, http://www.workshopped.com.au/08/d8_tieu.htm
- 2007 Awards and Alumni, Object New Design Awards, Cofa Magazine, Issue 19, p.58
- 2006 COFASA, Kudos Gallery Exhibition Events, pamphlet
- 2005 Marthe Le Van, 2005, 500 Brooches, Lark Books, p. 319
Boxoffice, New Design 2005, the [Sydney] magazine, March 2005, p.117
- 2004 Marthe Le Van, 2004, 1000 Rings, Lark Books, p. 174
RMIT Union Gallery, Graduate Metal 9, Exhibition of student work from Australia and New Zealand
Manfred Lai, No Need For Controversy: Another Voice on Contemporary Asian Art, Cofa Magazine, Spring 2004, pp. 20-21
- 2003 Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Contemporary Wearable '03, Cranbrook Press, p. 41
Sydney College of the Arts, A life in the day of..., pp. 22-23
Eileen McCarthy, Review: New Design 2003, Object Magazine, Issue 42, p. 81
Jonathan Rez, Adorned Surfaces, COFA Magazine, Winter 2003, p.6
Carrie Hutchinson, Prized Ideas, The Daily Telegraph, March 15 2003, pp. 10-11
Nigel Bartlett, Object Awards, Belle Design News, June/July 2003, Issue Number Three

Awards/Grants

- 2016 Nava NSW Artist Grant
- 2010 Mr and Mrs Gandel Private Sponsorship for Japan Residency at the Kitamura Studio.
- 2010 The Asialink 2010 Visual Arts Residencies in Asia Grant for a Japan Residency at the Kitamura Studio.
- 2010 Hermanns Imports Scholarship for support to undertake residency at the Kitamura Koubou

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- 2009 Studio in Japan.
Hermanns Imports Scholarship for support to undertake residency at the Kitamura Koubou Studio in Japan.
- 2008 The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant to undertake residency at the Kitamura Koubou Studio in Japan.
- 2006 Visual Arts New Work Grant 2006, Australian Council for the Arts.
- 2005 COFA Research Grant Attendance and Presentation at Conference, College of Fine Arts UNSW.
GAS Scheme Grant, Students Association, College of Fine Arts, University of NSW.
- 2004 COFA Research Grant Attendance and Presentation at Conference, College of Fine Arts UNSW.
- 2003 2003 Winner, Object New Design Award for Studio Based Practice.
Faculty Research Grant, College of Fine Arts, University of NSW.
GAS Scheme Grant, Students Association, College of Fine Arts, University of NSW.

Exhibitions

- 2017 PROFILE'17 – The 5th JMGA – NSW Biennial Curated Award Exhibition / Gauge Gallery
Received a 'Highly Commended' award
Contemporary Wearables 17 / Toowoomba Regional Gallery
The Gallery Acquired my work for their collection
Talking points-Radiant Pavilion / ANU House Melbourne
VOVEO – Radiant Pavillion / Melbourne City Library
How Does Your Garden Grow / Goulburn Art Regional Gallery
- 2016 Between Auspicious Forms / Fairfield City Gallery Museum
- 2015 Profile / Airspace Gallery
Honed / Gaffa Gallery
- 2014 - 2016 Workshopped 14: Exhibiting Australian Design Excellence / Moore Park Supacentra
Resolved: Journeys in Australian Design / Touring to 10 Regional Galleries around Australia
Object Gallery Australian Design Centre, NSW, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Katoomba NSW,
Western Plain Cultural Centre, Dubbo NSW, Tamworth Regional Art Gallery NSW, Cairns Regional Art
Gallery QLD, Bunbury Regional Galleries WA, Geraldton Regional Art Gallery WA, Albury Library Museum
NSW, Tasmanian Design Centre, Launceston TAS, Jam Factory Adelaide.
- 2013 Red to Wear / Stanley Street Gallery
- 2012 Workshopped 12: Local Design, Global Market: Be an International Designer Hill Street Design Precinct
Sydney
Japanese Jewellery Pendant Design / Tokyo Japan
RED OBJECTS: Research in Experimental Design / Cross Pollination / Curated by Dr Katherine Moline
& Wendy Parker - The University of NSW The College of fine Arts COFASPACE

Conference Paper Proceedings

- 2016 ICDHS 2016 Taipei: The 10th International Conference on Design History and Studies
October 26-28 Jewellery Conversations: An Analysis of Design Process
- 2012 MAKING an International Conference on Materiality and Knowledge
Notodden, Norway 24-27 Spetember 2012
Makie the Sprinkling of a Magical History: Making in the New World
- 2008 JMGA Conference - Inside Out/Jewellery and Object Making Explored in our Region Today
Adelaide Australia January 25-27
Lustrous Lacquer: Locating Lacquer as a Medium for Contemporary Jewellery and Objects
- 2005 2005 International Design Congress - New Design Paradigms: Design Culture Digital Creativity
National Yunlin University of Science and Technology Taiwan November 1-4
The Intersection of Lacquer and Laser Technology in Contemporary Jewellery Design, joint author W.
Parker
- 2004 JMGA Conference - Inherited Futures Technologies to Trap Ideas
Melbourne Australia RMIT University February 13-15
Beneath the Chrysanthemum Petal: The Assimilation of Laser Technology and Hand Craftsfts