



CHAPTER HOUSE LANE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 OCTOBER 2017

STEPHEN BIRD, TINA LEE, JENNY ORCHARD, DAVID RAY

Chameleon

From 2 November 2017–10 January 2018, Chapter House Lane will exhibit artworks by Stephen Bird, Tina Lee, Jenny Orchard and David Ray; four prominent Australian artists that work in the medium of ceramics.



Image: Stephen Bird, *G'day*, 2017, tin-glazed earthenware, 31cm x 31cm. Stephen Bird appears courtesy of Gould Galleries, Melbourne and Olsen Gallery, Sydney.

The artists in *Chameleon* reimagine traditional sculptural techniques for a contemporary context. The clay objects – a wonky vessel, dinner plates, a towering tureen, ginger jars – highlight the notion of art versus craft while tackling ideas that concern the human condition, politics and Australian cultural stereotypes.

For *Chameleon*, Stephen Bird uses self-deprecating humour and mimicry to challenge the role of the artist while poking fun at British ceramic styles and conventions; Tina Lee appropriates historical ceramic traditions to create artworks that are self-referential and psychologically charged. Lee externalises her personal inner-dialogue in the recent series *Self-Talk* (2017); David Ray critiques high and low culture in his highly decorative works inspired by the Baroque era; and Jenny Orchard brings together botanic and figurative elements to explore alternative states of being and hyper realities.

The exhibition *Chameleon* intends to observe the changing appearance of ceramics today while making reference to the Funk Art movement that originated in the bayside area of California, America in the 1960s. *Chameleon* is curated by Chapter House Lane's Louise Klerks and Stacy Jewell to celebrate the gallery's sixth year of operation.

Chapter House Lane is an independent and non-profit art space in Melbourne. The gallery is dedicated to promoting the work of emerging, mid-career and established arts practitioners. Since its inception, the gallery has been rent-free and commission-free for artists.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Stephen Bird

Stephen Bird (1964) is a British-born Australian artist who lives and works in Sydney. Bird holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee. Bird has exhibited nationally and internationally. His recent solo exhibitions include *Bastard Son Of Royal Doulton*, Wollongong Art Gallery (2015); *Once Upon a Time in New England*, Gould Galleries (2014); and *My Dad Was Born On The Moon*, The Scottish Gallery, Scotland (2013). Bird's selected group shows include *More Love Hours*, The Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne (2015); *Beyond Limitations*, Gimhae Clay Arch Museum, South Korea (2015); *Bacchanalistas: Ferrin Contemporary*, The New York Ceramics Art, USA (2014); and *Horizon – Landscapes, Ceramics and Print*, The National Museum of Norway, Oslo (2012). Bird is represented in a number of collections including the National Gallery of Australia; National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh; National Museums, Northern Ireland; and the Art Gallery of South Australia. Bird is currently represented by Gould Galleries, Melbourne and Olsen Gallery, Sydney. <http://www.stephenbird.net>

Tina Lee

Tina Lee is an Australian artist living in regional Victoria. She graduated with a Master of Fine Arts (Ceramics) from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2006. Lee's recent exhibitions include *Manningham Victorian Ceramic Art Award*, Manningham Art Gallery (2017); *Sanctuary*, Chameleon Gallery (2009); *Clunes Ceramic Award*, Union Bank Arts Centre (2013); *3PDCP*, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery (2010) and; *Boundless, The Taiwan Ceramics Biennale*, Yingge Ceramics Museum, Taiwan (2008). Lee's ceramic installations feature in several prominent public collections including the Federation University Australia Art Collection; Manningham City Council Art Collection; City of Darebin Art Collection; and The Kyneton Collection. In 2017, Lee received an Honourable Mention in the *Manningham Victorian Ceramic Award*, Manningham Art Gallery.

Jenny Orchard

Jenny Orchard was born in Turkey in 1951 and grew up in Zimbabwe before moving to Australia in 1976. Orchard now lives and works in Sydney. She holds a Masters of Fine Arts from the College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales. Orchard has exhibited extensively nationally and internationally. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Living in the Clouds*, Beaver Galleries (2016); and *My Journey Through the Hidden Suburbs of Reconstruction*, Maunsell Wickes Gallery (2014). Orchard's selected group exhibitions include *Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Art Award*, Shepparton Art Museum (2107); *OVERUNDERSIDEWAYS DOWN*, Manly Art Gallery and Musuem (2016); *Art from Australia*, Gail Art Museum, South Korea (2015); and *The 2nd Jakarta Ceramics Biennale*, Indonesia (2012-13). Orchard's work is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia; Powerhouse Museum; Queensland Art Gallery; Art Gallery of South Australia; The National Gallery of Victoria; and Museo Internazionale delle ceramiche, Italy. In 2017, Orchard was the recipient of the 2017 Sidney Myer Fund Australian Ceramic Art Award. Orchard is represented by Despard Gallery, Hobart and Beaver Galleries, Canberra. <http://jennyorchard.com/press>

David Ray

David Ray was born in 1972 and lives and works in regional Victoria. David Ray graduated from RMIT University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours), majoring in ceramics. Since then, Ray has exhibited nationally and internationally. Ray's recent solo exhibitions include *Trickster*, Anna Pappas Gallery (2015); *David Ray Retrospective*, Ararat Regional Gallery (2012); *Collaborative Witness*, University of Queensland Art Museum (2011); and *New Under the Sun*, Jewish Museum of Australia (2010). His work is held in a number of Australian and international collections including The Margaret Lawrence Australian Ceramics Collection, Victorian College of the Arts; the University of Melbourne; National Gallery of

Victoria; and The Clay Studio, Philadelphia. Ray was a finalist of the 2016 Basil Sellers Art Prize 5, Ian Potter Museum of Art (2016); and was recently the recipient of the 2017 Manningham Victorian Ceramic Art Award. www.davidray.com.au

Exhibition: Stephen Bird, Tina Lee, Jenny Orchard and David Ray

Dates: 2 November 2017 – 10 January 2018

Launch: Thursday 2 November, 6–8pm

Location: Chapter House Lane, entry via Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000

Chapter House Lane is a non-profit contemporary art gallery in Melbourne. Find out more at chapterhouselane.org.au. For media enquiries, interviews or images, contact Louise Klerks on Tel: +61 404 118 105 or email louise@chapterhouselane.org.au

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