

More Information on our Artists in Residence

Each artist is listed on a separate page, please make sure you scroll through to read about them all...

SUE HOOD - PAINTER

Susan was born in Melbourne and spent her young life on the suburban fringe surrounded by paddocks, creeks and wild secret places. She was an adventurous, inquisitive child who loved creating Art from an early age.

Her love of birds started early with the old style large suburban block being full of rescued chickens from her uncle's poultry farm, ducks, cockatoos, budgerigars and a pigeon flock that provided pocket money buy being sold only to return a few weeks later.

When she was 21, the wild places called once again, and she spent many years travelling and living in the remote regions of the Australian outback surrounded by spectacular country and native wildlife serving as inspiration for her paintings.

Susan has been settled in the Southwest for many years and has worked as Artist in Residence at Happs Estate Gallery/Studio for around 10 years alongside other artists and potters. Susan paints with Acrylic and Oil or a combination of both.

Her passion to try and save and rehabilitate injured birds is still evident and most of the "patients" end up as being subjects for her paintings as well as the environment they inhabit.



JAPNEET KEITH - POTTER

Japneet Keith's time on the pottery wheel took a new turn when she enrolled as a student of Industrial Design at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, in 2005.

She was born in Chandigarh in 1983 and graduated in Sculpture from Chandigarh college of Arts in year 2004. She also did her schooling in the City, passing out from Carmel Convent School, Chandigarh.

Her initial days at the NID, were spent exploring the possibilities two- and three-dimensional mediums and the possibilities of various materials. Her interest in ceramics and glass ultimately lead her to select pottery as her true calling. She honed her skills under the watchful eyes of the master, Shantanu Jena.

After completing the course, she joined a ceramic studio in Pune to gain first-hand knowledge of various production techniques and best practices. It was there Japneet truly experienced the essence of pottery studio, with Ruby Jhunhunwala as her mentor.

She set up a small studio in 2007 to work on those improbable things that often make their appearances on the pottery wheel. It was a time of intense introspection when she learned the possibilities and limits of clay and glass. She went on to establish a more formal studio in 2010, with a space for people to explore the materials and learn. Japneet developed programmes and workshops in her studio to help people explore the wonderful mediums of glass and ceramics. But the progression of her workshops was not skill-based or course-based. It was designed to introduce people to this wonderful, tactile and often quirky medium. You learn along the way that as you mould clay, clay moulds you. Red Mug was the next stage of the journey.

A natural teacher, she shares her creativity with students at her home studio, redmug.in and at the gallery at Happs Wines in Western Australia. Japneet has exhibited both nationally and internationally, and her work can be found at Happs Pottery, Australia where she is employed as the gallery manager.

Nature is at the heart of Japneet's pottery, with objects and figures in the landscape taking its shape at the wheel. An avid traveller, she is often found exploring the forests, mountains or tide pools in foreign lands where she finds her inspiration in people, land and the art she encounters. From Hummingbirds to Seashell Murals to the geometric lines of ancient Iznik designs, the exhibition gathers a spread of her repertoire, which is also a record of her journeys.

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JUSTIN WEBB – SCULPTOR

Justin Webb lives in the Margaret River Region of Western Australia as an artist in residence at Happs Wines where he sources materials and creates metal sculptures from antique and scrap industrial steel. His interest and passion lies in recycling and conserving energy where possible in the creation of his sculptures.

Justin does not cut, shape or interfere with the integrity of the parts he works with, but instead uses the parts in their original condition, and bearing the scars of their previous life. "Little pieces of history melded together to create a new story"

With over 25 years of experience, quality is assured and guaranteed with all sculptures, he also enjoys working with clients in the design and creation of unique and individual pieces.

Justin's works are held in many private collections within Australia and internationally. His artworks have been exhibited at many art award events including Sculpture By the Bay, Minnowarra Art Awards, Castaway's Sculpture Awards and Northam Art Prize winning numerous prizes along the way.

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GARY HAMBELTON – POTTER

Gary was born in London, the UK, in 1958 and immigrated to Australia in 1973. He started working at Courtland's pottery in 1974 and began his learning's from Barry and Grenville Courtland.

Courtland's produced a large range of Terracotta Garden Pottery in its earlier years including salt glazed stoneware. Gary considers himself to be the lucky few to have successfully completed training at Courtland's. The training helped him to learn the secrets of the family business which have been passed down over the last 160 years in Australia.

In 1979 Gary started work at Austware Pottery and made stoneware until September 1985, when he was asked to be the resident potter at the Old Cheese Factory in Balingup. Over the next three years Gary developed his own style of work. "The Old Stables Pottery ", his own studio, was built by Gary in 1989 where a wide range of domestic stoneware and one-off pieces were made until 2004.

Gary then decided to move to the hills in Nepal. There he spent time working with potters in remote villages and learning how pots were made using primitive technology, for the last many centuries and describes his experiences there as simply "amazing".

On one of his trips back to Australia, Gary spent the summers working at the original Happs Pottery at 575 Commonage Road in Quindalup. In 2010 he moved back to Australia to start again. He has a working studio in Capel, Western Australia. Gary specializes in high temperature reduction firings (cone 11) with copper reds, Chun Ware and Jun glazes. His splash decoration techniques along with glaze layering platters are his signature style of work.

Earlier, he used to work with stoneware using slips and oxides as under glaze decoration. Most of the decorations were done while the pot was still wet on the wheel. Gradually Gary was successful in creating his own pallet that is used to this day. With years of experimentation and fine tuning the kiln design has been tweaked for maximum efficiency.

Since January 2015 Gary has been conducting glaze development workshops with Japneet Keith and other specialised skills throughout India. Apart from designing and establishing high-efficiency kilns in India, Gary teaches pottery from *RedMug Studio* in Chandigarh and is a visiting faculty at few of India's finest Universities. He is currently working as a potter in residence again at the Happs Studio Gallery in Dunsborough.

"Inspiration comes easily from a rich history of form, texture and colour and from just about every culture on earth plus a love and passion for what I do. After all these years I am still like a little kid at Christmas waiting to see the results and surprised from the next kiln load."

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COLIN PRATT – PAINTER

Colin has drawn and painted all his life using a range of media but changed to encaustic in 2000 after a chance encounter on a visit to England. Since then - and nearly 20 years later - different approaches to using this form of medium have resulted in experimentation and the creation of an incredible range of effects, including 3D works.

He makes most of the materials (waxes, supports, frames) which gives him the ability to be flexible with the size and shape of the painting. Collage with encaustic is his principal style, although other natural products are used as complementary materials: crushed ochres, marri and grass tree resins, and ash/charcoal are featured prominently in many paintings.

The majority of paintings reflect both natural and cultural themes, with a recent predominance of urban issues focussing on concerns raised by city dwellers.

However, visitors to Happs Studio Gallery will notice works based on other themes, including Japanese, historical, and ocean themes.

Paintings have sold locally, nationally, and internationally.

Local Awards have included:

2014 Winner, Beverley Art Exhibition (Mixed Media)

2013 Winner, Dardanup Art Prize

2013 Highly Commended, Beverley Art Exhibition

2005 Highly Commended, Nannup Arts Council

2004 Rotary Directory Cover (Bankwest Award), Margaret River

2003 Highly Commended, Dunsborough Lions Art Award

2003 Best Mixed Media – Nannup Arts Council

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