

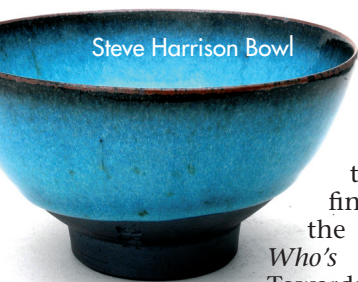


HotArt

Spring finds our artists embracing nature

& the environment, with one local artist literally throwing stones to create future antiquities...

Ceramics from stones



Steve Harrison Bowl

In his first local exhibition for five years, **Balmoral** ceramicist Steve Harrison brings together some of his finest recent pieces for the aptly named *Look Who's Throwing Stones...* Towards a local 'terroir' based aesthetic, at Sturt Gallery.

Renowned throughout creative circles as an artist, teacher, writer, ecologist and scientist, Harrison offers a defiant challenge to globalisation and brings a breathtakingly unique and purist approach to his work. His quest for *terroir*, a concept emanating from French winemaking and used to define unique regional-specific qualities, knows few boundaries.

"*Terroir* is everything encompassed in a particular environment, everything to do with locality – the climate, the atmosphere, the geology and quality of air", says Harrison. "My pieces are classical in shape, one hundred per cent natural and absolutely authentic to this shire."

Backed by 30 years spent experimenting, testing and honing his craft, Harrison leaves nothing to chance. Eschewing the use of commercially produced clay, he scours the bush collecting earth, rocks and stones that

he grades according to origin, then roughly crushes the rock fragments and painstakingly extracts any silt and clay by hand to create his own local native Australian bai tunze, porcelain stone.

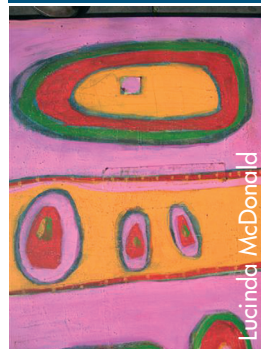
"Ground rock dust isn't the most promising material to work with, to throw, but apart from the limited plasticity, which restricts the scale and form of the pieces, there are many fine qualities that my materials exhibit when wood-fired."

His glazes are equally painstakingly made from "the same bai tunze porcelain stone as the clay body, or other local igneous rocks, shales and ashes, all discovered by me and then crushed, processed and milled in my workshop". He collects felled wood from his own or neighbourhood properties, and uses one specific type of timber to keep each firing unique. "The glazes are all created and fired using the same alchemy and attention to detail. Simple stones, ashes, clay and lime can be transmuted into soft pastel translucent colour with the hardness and durability of porcelain. This work is unique in that it is completely authentic, its provenance is known from its origins in the earth to its exhibition in the gallery."

As much about process as result, these are truly unique and exquisite works.

Look Who's Throwing Stones, ceramics by Steve Harrison at Sturt Gallery, Range Road, Mittagong until November 23

Square Ink Gallery at the Milk Factory



Lucinda McDonald

Austinmer artist Paul Stork and Moss Vale's Lucinda McDonald bring an eclectic array of works to their forthcoming Square Ink Gallery exhibition at the Milk Factory Gallery. Married to a pair of siblings, both are

lifetime artists, forever striving to find new ways to express their art. For Stork, this involves working in different media as he oscillates between painting and sculpture, from working with oils, gouache and pastels to abstractly capture the essence of beach or laneway, to balancing engineering and art as he sculpts with bronze and limestone.

McDonald's quest to find a balance between her art and parenting two pre-school age sons means that she has, for now, forsaken her first creative love, sculptural welding. Working mainly with acrylics and housepaint, she seeks inspiration from the things around her, as she paints a vase, shoes, her dog, her beloved welding rods. Her works reflect her creativity and love of order, colour, texture, shape and line.

Square Ink Gallery at the Milk Factory Gallery Art & Design Centre, Station Street, Bowral from November 7 to 20. For more information: www.squareinkgallery.com.au

FutureArts upcoming arts for the diary

- A selection of new and important works by our stable of collectable artists, Bell Gallery, Jellore Street, Berrima from September 20
- Watercolours by Ros Goody, the Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral until November 6
- Heavenly Highlands Art Exhibition, local landscapes and streetscapes painted in situ by local plein air artists, the Old Town Hall, Bendooley Street Bowral until November 14
- Black and White on Silver, Tony Sheffield's exhibition of limited edition black and white images of the Southern Highlands on silver gelatin photographic paper at the Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral, November 21 to December 4 November 26 to 28, Old Bowral Town Hall
- Artists in Residence, a collection of multimedia artworks displaying the creativity of residents in Sunshine Lodge and Rosnel presented by The Disability Trust - Active Linking Initiative at the Old Bowral Town Hall, Bendooley St Bowral, November 26 to 28
- Vanessa Forbes Fine Art Student Exhibition, Greenbriar Park Cellar Door, November 29 to 30, December 5 to 7, 12 to 14, www.vanessaforbes.com.au
- Sturt School for Wood Graduating Exhibition at Sturt, Range Road, Mittagong November 29 to December 14
- Italy to Australia, 2008, an exhibition of works from Italy at the Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral from December 5 to 30
- The Gib prints, ceramics and photography all relating to The Gib, by Tony Ameneiro, Steve Harrison, Robyn Kinsela and John Lascelles at Sturt Gallery, Range Road, Mittagong from December 19 to February 15

Rapture at Amara

Flexing her curatorial skills, Kathy Geurts brings together a group of local artisans for a one-day exhibition to tantalise early Christmas shoppers in the sumptuous surrounds of Amara, her Berrima garden, in late November. Embracing a range of media, and strategically dotted throughout the garden, exhibits include finely-crafted woodwork by Kevin Dwyer, classical sculptures by Miranda Lean, colourful, bold and large pieces of mosaic art by Linda Beasley, and a host of vibrant and ingenious creations from textile artists Enid Worthington, Jean Colyer, Marolyn Turner, Robyn Primrose, Elizabeth Brown and Helen Rippon. Burgeoning mixed-media jewellery artist Geurts will also present her own intriguing range of cutting-edge pieces, while long-time local Steve Jones will exhibit his finely-crafted ceramic designs for the first time.

Rapture, a special artisans' event in the Amara gardens @ Amara property, Berrima Drive, Berrima on November 30, from 10.30am to 4pm. A percentage of sales will be donated to Can Assist, Southern Highlands.



Kathy Geurts Jewellery



Steven Jones Ceramics