

SUSIE HANSEN



30 Years in the Making

30 YEARS IN THE MAKING – FIRE, GRIT, GUMPTION AND A BIT OF COLOUR

These words certainly describe her ceramics, literally and figuratively, but they are very apt of Susie Hansen herself – they bear striking testament to the artist that she is. Born into a heavily community-engaged family bridging politics and music she has traversed a wide spectrum of involvement in her areas of creative practice as student, practitioner, teacher, exhibitor, performer and perpetrator of public art, all accomplished with a signature verve, wit and wry sense of the real. In a sense her origins in Maryborough and long immersion in St Kilda, Melbourne, are bookends to a distinctly individual career exploring both hot topics and cool – the “motherless sons of the media” embodying the ruthless sensationalism of tabloid headlines, visions of Logan with the Pacific Motorway, Springwood, as a highway of the White Knights of the Neo-Right, Owls and Pussycats, Brancusi’s “Gate of the Kiss”, “Blue Hotels” and Gaudi Grotesques have topped

out of a constantly engaged imagination grappling with the vicissitudes of everyday mundanity and its moments of extremes. In a sense there is as much fire in the passion for the making as there is in the heat of the kiln, grit in the clay body as in the telling of the images and objects made, gumption in the relentless keeping-going as in the working of the medium and then the colour, a spectrum of glazes matt and shiny to match a forthright view of the world delivered with an uncanny twist of style. But there is also the reflective – the curious crowd of little people looking at public art, her collections of glazed iPods and tablets,



Mexican Wave – Boab Pot
BRT clay, underglaze, gloss earthenware
40 × 32 × 32 cm



Monumental – Fella
BRT clay, underglaze, earthenware
65 × 31 × 36 cm

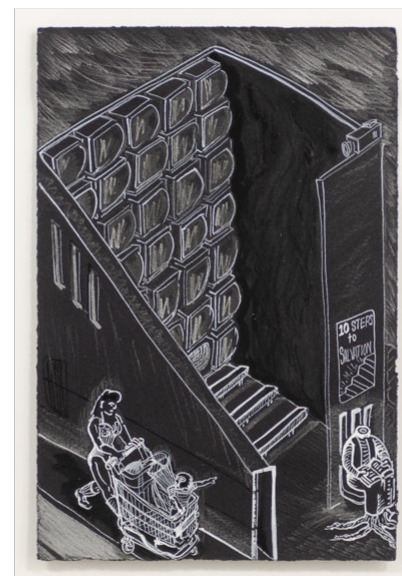
shiny ceramic ice-creams and solid hand-held microphones essaying a quizzical look at people, performance and the attributes of just getting-by. This exhibition embraces 30 years of Susie’s practice in ceramics, drawing and paint and is a remarkable treat that so many objects have made the distance together to be present here today.

Michael Barnett 2020



Bicentennial Birthday Party
BRT clay, underglaze, earthenware
& carbon transfer, 53 × 69 × 26 cm

Susie studied ceramics at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba, undertook Honours at RMIT in Melbourne and completed her Masters at the Victorian College of the Arts, part of the University of Melbourne.



Shopping with Mum
Acrylic, pencil on paper
28 × 19 cm



Looking at the Apple – Figure 1
BRT clay, underglaze, earthenware
38 × 12 × 9 cm



Ash Wednesday
Earthenware tile
20 × 15 cm



Yellow Trees of Toogoom
Pencil and acrylic on card
35 × 27 cm

front image: *SEX-DEATH Mask #1*, BRT clay, underglaze, glaze, earthenware, 26 × 14 × 9 cm

Woolloongabba Art Gallery

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