

Her Work Artist Biographies

Melina Celik



Melina Celik is a Parisian-born evolutionary biologist and art gallery director. She migrated to Australia in the late 2015 to undertake a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). It was during her studies that she “found harmony in shaping clay”. Whilst her research involves studying how “shapes” changes “between mammal species” using 3D modelling and statistical applications, her ceramics are hand-built or wheel-thrown. The symmetrical forms are then inflected, contoured or assembled. Her first solo exhibition, staged at KEPK in 2023, included vases with parametric twists and oblates that were precariously stacked. Through these vessels, Melina channels her own memories and challenges the conceptions others may hold about the craft.

Natasha Narain



Artist, scholar and educator Natasha Narain attributes her openness to “change and cultural differences” to being born into an Indian defence force family. It relocated with regularity throughout her childhood. Since completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) from Visva Bharati University (West Bengal) in 1993, she has contributed to exhibitions in a diversity of venues including: the Kalakshetra Art Gallery (Guwahati), Southeast Museum of Photography (Florida), and the Academy of Fine Arts (Kolkata). She is presently undertaking a PhD at QUT, for which the “reactivate[ion] and recalibrat[ion] of the Bengali Kantha” is a research focus. The hand-embroidered quilts are fashioned from reclaimed cotton sarees are spiritually nourishing and physically nurturing. Patterns interweave portraits, tableaux and maps. Many of the depicted objects and subjects have symbolic significance. These textiles are material and mnemonic repositories of knowledge. She applies their aesthetic rhetoric to a diversity of media including drawing, printmaking and installation.

Sara Nejad



Since graduating with a BFA in 2006 from the University of Tehran in her home country of Iran, Sara Nejad has been exhibited across the world. The galleries to have hosted her solo shows include: Seyhoun Art Gallery (Tehran) and Gallery 360 (Boston), and Logan Art Gallery. She has also contributed to group exhibitions at: Arya Art Gallery (Teran), Bruecke Gallery (Frankfurt), Fireworks Gallery (Brisbane), Gladstone Regional Art Gallery, the State Library of Queensland (Brisbane). Her multidisciplinary art practice engages a variety of media, including painting, pyrography and installation. Drawing on her experience of “living in transition”, her artwork investigates memory and place, with an emphasis on the associated “emotional conflict”. In 2019, Sara completed a Doctor of Visual Arts (DVA) from Griffith University. She is presently inspiring aspiring artists through her role as Visual Art teacher at Tafe Queensland.

Pamela See (Xue Mei-Ling)



Pamela See (Xue Mei-Ling) is an Australian born visual artist who pays homage to the contributions made by other Chinese diaspora using papercut portraiture. Her contemporary style infuses both aspects of Foshan papercutting, from her maternal family home province of Guangdong, and the silhouette portraiture of Europe and North America. Since the 1990s, she has exhibited across the aforementioned regions, China and Australia. The institutions to hold examples of her artwork include: the Huaxia Papercutting Museum (Changsha), the National Portrait Gallery (Canberra), and the Art Gallery of South Australia (Adelaide). Pamela completed her PhD in Fine Art at Griffith University in 2020.

Jeanette Stok



Jeanette Stok is an artist and educator, who completed her PhD in chemistry in 2002. She has worked as a research scientist for over twenty years in a number of university laboratories. These include the University of California, Davis and The University of Oxford. In 2016, she received her BFA, majoring in sculpture, from Griffith University and has since participated in a number of exhibitions and residencies. In 2017, her work was selected for *Open House*, the 3rd Tamworth Textile Triennial, which travelled to a number of galleries around Australia (2017-2020). She also participated in *Stitch Cult* at Artisan in 2018, and *Quadrat* with Michelle Vine at Logan Art Gallery in 2019. She held her first solo exhibition at Shoalhaven Regional Gallery in 2021. This opportunity was gained through her winning the Curator's Choice Award, NOW Contemporary Art Prize in 2019. In the same year, she also won the CrossXPollination Connections Art Prize in Colac, Victoria.