

## **Mairi Ward**

Born 1980 on the Isle of Man, British Isles, her family migrated to Australia in the early 80's. Mairi is a painter and ceramic artist, living and working from her studio in Launceston, Tasmania. Mairi has traveled in South East Asia, Nepal, China, England, North Africa, England, Ireland and Spain. These travels have had a strong influence on her art practice.

Mairi exhibits regularly and has received a number of commissions, scholarships and awards including: an Australian Postgraduate Award to undertake a Masters of Fine Arts at the University of Tasmania, completed in 2011; an ArtStart grant from the Australia Council for the Arts in 2013; Four Arts Tasmania Assistance to Individuals grants; had paintings selected for three Tasmanian Government public art commissions and has been selected as a finalist in the 2010, 2011, 2014 and 2015 Glover painting prize.

**Artist Statement:** 'I paint intuitively, as a response to the environment I live in, from the perspective that I am inseparable from it. The paintings are abstract works composed of intricate layers of overlapping and interlocking forms and colours. My paintings are moments of personal freedom. They are about being present and in the moment.'

My ceramic objects are slip cast Cool Ice porcelain, with glazed interiors and hand polished exteriors. I create digital surface designs using imagery from my paintings and have them printed as decals. The decals are applied to the ceramic surfaces before a third firing. Each piece is unique. They are made to be used and enjoyed.'

Email: [mairiward8@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mairiward8@yahoo.com.au) Web: [mairiward.wordpress.com](http://mairiward.wordpress.com) Mobile: 0417 596 271

## **Education**

- 2011 Master of Fine Art, University of Tasmania; Australian Postgraduate Award
- 2008 Bachelor of Contemporary Arts Hons 1, University of Tasmania; University Medal
- 2004 Art, Craft & Design, TAFE Tasmania, Launceston, Tasmania

## **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2017 Solo Exhibition at Gallerysmith Project Space, Melbourne, Victoria
- 2016 Solo Exhibition of Paintings. Ceramics. Design at The Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral New South Wales
- 2015 Exhibition stand 14, The Other Art Fair, aMBUSH Gallery Central Park, Sydney, New South Wales
- 2013 *Designer Rooms*, Handmark Gallery, Salamanca, Hobart, Tasmania
- 2011 *Object to Object*, NEW Gallery, University of Tasmania, Newnham, Tasmania

- Paintings and Objects*, Handmark Gallery, Salamanca, Hobart, Tasmania  
*Sherbet Forest*, Ten Days on the Island, *INTEERS*, commissioned large-scale outdoor ephemeral installation, Greens Beach, Tasmania
- 2009 *Paintings by Mairi Ward*, Handmark Gallery, Salamanca, Hobart, Tasmania  
*Passenger*, s.p.a.c.e Gallery, Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston, Tasmania
- 2007 *Painting in Itself*, Powerhouse Gallery and Artspace, Launceston, Tasmania

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2017 *Painting in the Junction Art Festival 'Night Light' art tour*  
 Four person group exhibition at Handmark Gallery, Hobart Tasmania  
*Food : art, Aesthetics and design*, Academy Gallery - University of Tasmania, Inveresk, Tasmania
- 2016 *Limit of Maps* (three person exhibition), Sheffer Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
*We Don't Talk*, four person curated exhibition, Tiny Tailor Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
*Bay of Fires Art Prize* (finalist), St Helens, Tasmania  
*Abstract*, four person group exhibition, Handmark Gallery, Tasmania
- 2015 *Bay of Fires Art Prize* (finalist), St Helens, Tasmania  
*Glover Art Prize* (finalist), Evandale, Tasmania
- 2014 *Glover Art Prize* (finalist), Evandale, Tasmania
- 2013 *Christmas Exhibition*, Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral, New South Wales  
*Bay of Fires Art Prize* (finalist), Gallery Parnella, St Helens, Tasmania  
*Burnie Print Prize* (finalist), Burnie Regional Gallery, Burnie, Tasmania
- 2011 *Glover Art Prize* (finalist), Evandale, Tasmania
- 2010 *In Partnership*, Academy Gallery, Launceston/ Devonport Regional Gallery, Devonport, Tasmania  
*Glover Art Prize* (finalist), Evandale, Tasmania  
*Connections*, Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston, Tasmania
- 2009 *The New Landscape*, Handmark Gallery, Evandale, Tasmania  
*Tasmanian Art Foundation Exhibition*, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tasmania  
*Cigar Box Show*, Artifakt Gallery, Deloraine, Tasmania
- 2008 *Out of This World*, Tasmanian Craft Fair Special Exhibition, Deloraine, Tasmania  
*Small Works Exhibition*, Brunswick Street Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria  
*Paint 08*, Poimena Gallery, Launceston, Tasmania

### **Selected Publications**

- 2016 Southern Highland News, NSW, *Mairi Ward exhibition at Milk Factory Gallery*, August 12, p.10
- 2013 *Mairi Ward* (profile), InsideOut Magazine, Nov/Dec Issue, p.47  
*An Exhibition With a Difference*, ABC 7:30 Tasmania, 5min 29sec, February 22nd

- 2011 Examiner, Saturday Escape, TAS, *Mairi Ventures into Bold New Homeware*, July 16, p.41  
 Mercury on Saturday, TAS, *Artist Gives work a Function*, May 21, p.21
- 2009 Sunday Tasmanian, TAS, *Pursuit of Happiness*, May 17  
 Art Monthly, May 2009, Number 219 (image)
- 2008 Examiner, Launceston, TAS, *Everyday life draws Mairi's interest*, June 28, p.36
- 2007 Craft Arts International, Vol 70, p.74 (image)

### **Other**

- 2017 Artist in Residence at St Patricks College, Launceston Tasmania  
 Selector and judge for Art Quilt Australia, exhibition at Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery,  
 Launceston Tasmania

### **Awards/Grants/Commissions**

- 2018 Arts Tasmania, Artist Investment grant to exhibit at the Asia Contemporary Art Show in Hong Kong
- 2017 Arts Tasmania, assistance to individuals delivery grant for solo exhibition at GallerySmith Project Space, Melbourne VIC
- 2016 Northern Exposure Grant from Tasmanian Regional Arts to assist with costs for solo exhibition at the Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral NSW  
 Public art commission for the Oatlands District High School under the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme  
 Artsbridge grant from Arts Tasmanian to assist with costs for solo exhibition at the Milk Factory Gallery, Bowral NSW  
 Arts Tasmania, assistance to individuals grant to make a new body of work
- 2015 Public art commission for the Tasmanian Audit Office under the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme  
 Tasmanian Regional Arts, Quick Response Grant  
 Arts Tasmania Crowbar grant in conjunction with a Pozible crowdfunding campaign, Exhibiting at The Other Art Fair, NSW <http://www.pozible.com/project/197878>
- 2013 Australia Council for the Arts, ArtStart grant  
 Australian Craft Awards, Winner of the Chairman's Award
- 2012 Arts Tasmania, assistance to individuals grant  
 Public art commission for the Palliative Care Centre under the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme  
 Commission to make a small group of ceramics for Sturt Gallery, NSW
- 2011 Arts Tasmania, assistance to individuals grant to make new work for a solo exhibition at Handmark Gallery  
 Tasmanian Design Award (top ten)

Commissioned to create a small range of ceramic, textile and paper objects, for the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Royal Park shop, Launceston  
Clay Connections, Excellence in Ceramics Award, School of Visual and Performing Arts, UTas  
Tasmanian Regional Arts, Quick Response Grant

2010 Scotch Oakburn College Collection: acquisition

2008 Scotch Oakburn College s.p.a.c.e Gallery Tertiary Student Art Award

University of Tasmania – Dean’s Roll of Excellence with Honours

2007 Fullers Bookshop Award for Art Theory, and Philcam Art & Framing Award for Painting Studio,  
S.V.P.A. University of Tasmania