EARTH WORKS
CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN CERAMIC ART

Curated by Christine Nicholls, Earth Works is an exhibition of (mainly) contemporary Indigenous Australian pottery from diverse locations nationwide including Ernabella, Hermannsburg, Lajamanu, the Torres Strait and Tiwi Islands. Drawing on private and public collections and featuring the work of over 25 artists, the exhibition documents and celebrates the rise of ceramic art as a relatively new medium of Indigenous expression.

As stated by Nicholls:

While prior to colonisation there was no vernacular tradition of Australian pottery, increasing numbers of Indigenous ceramists are now turning their hands to this art form. By creating ‘earth works’ of singular felicity through which they assert a range of regional and socio-political identities, Indigenous potters are making this introduced practice their own. The exhibition is sure to disturb certain preconceived notions and assumptions about what constitutes Aboriginal art.

Earth Works is presented as part of the 2012 Australian Ceramics Triennale, ‘Subversive Clay’, September 28 to October 1, Adelaide.

Earth Works: Contemporary Indigenous Australian Ceramic Art will be officially launched at Flinders University City Gallery on Friday 31 August at 6pm by The Hon Dr Diana Laidlaw AM.

Open to the public from Saturday 1 September 2012 and continuing until Sunday 14 October 2012. Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 11–4pm, Saturday and Sunday 12–4pm.

For further information contact:

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Ricardo Idagi, Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing, 2012, glazed earthenware, feathers, cane, 60.0 x 27.0 x 65.0 cm, courtesy the artist and Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, photo Simon Anderson Photography, Melbourne