

### Lesla Farrant

Lesla completed a degree in ceramics at LaTrobe University, Victoria in 1992. Accepting an associateship in the ceramics department at the Jam Factory, she relocated to South Australia. She remained at JamFactory as a tenant for the following 2 years before becoming a member of Jamboree Clay Workshop, Adelaide. In 1997 Lesla was awarded the Ruth Tuck Scholarship to conduct a self directed residency at the Banff Art Centre, Canada and to participate in an international ceramics conference in Edmonton, Canada.

After extensive education opportunities and overseas travel Lesla returned in 1999 to resume her practice at the Jamboree Clay Workshop. Full time practice, and a ten year placement as a sessional lecturer at The University of South Australia culminated in the completion of a Master of Visual Arts degree at the University of South Australia in 2008.

Lesla was the recipient of an Arts SA Project Grant in 2011 to spend time at SODA studios in WA to explore new works. Lesla exhibits in group shows regularly and was one of 40 Jam Factory Alumni to participate in Jam Factory's 40 Years of Craft exhibition in 2013. Lesla's most recent solo exhibition was at Craft ACT in 2014.

In 2003 Lesla relocated to Port Willunga, SA. Since moving house and studio to this sea side town Lesla's works in porcelain have become increasingly inspired by her local beach and in particular the plastic and rubbish found on daily walks.

### Claire Brooks

Claire studied at Curtin University of Technology (WA) and has completed her BA Arts (Art) Honours, under the supervision of Contemporary Jeweller, Brenda Ridgewell. Her high expectations of quality and finish have instilled a passion for fine detail within each piece for the wearer to enjoy. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Claire has participated in variety of programs such as Designing Futures, an intensive group mentorship run by FORM (WA) with Jon Goulder and Julie Blyfield, The Associate Program at JamFactory and runs her practice from Gray Street Workshop with a keen determination to become a successful maker. Sharing her knowledge is an integral part of her practice. She has lectured at Curtin University (WA), Central Institute of Technology (WA), as well as at the Fremantle Arts Centre (WA). This, in combination with her regular attendance at the Jewellers and Metalsmiths Group of Australia conferences, has enriched her practice, keeping her actively involved in the contemporary jewellery community.

### Leonie Westbrook

Leonie Westbrook completed a Bachelor of Applied Arts at Uni SA and in 2008 was selected as an associate in the JamFactory Metal Design studio. During this time Leonie exhibited locally at Jam Factory and Zu Design Jewellery + Object, and nationally including The Ring at Studio Ingot in Melbourne and the National Contemporary Jewellery Award, at Griffith Regional Art Gallery. Leonie's work was

also selected as a finalist in the Waterhouse Natural Science Award at the South Australian Museum in 2008, and again in 2011 and 2012.

Following her associateship Leonie became a Jam Factory tenant, where in 2010 she held her solo exhibition Relics. She was also invited to exhibit at Jam Factory in Teawares and Metal on the Map, the latter travelling to Gallery One in Perth as part of the JMGA Conference. In 2011 Leonie's work was selected to exhibit at the Contemporary Australian Silver and Metalwork Exhibition in Castlemaine, VIC.

In 2012 Leonie became a Gray Street Workshop tenant and while there was awarded an Arts SA Project Grant for research and development, plus exhibited alongside the partners and tenants in Process, and in 2013 exhibited there again in Two Ways, part of Jam Factory 40 year celebration program. More recently Leonie was one of 12 invited alumni to participate in Calendar Girls for Gray Street Workshop 30 year anniversary, which included a year long project exploring each artists practice through video, image and prose, culminating in an exhibition during the 2016 Adelaide Fringe. Since leaving Gray Street Workshop Leonie has set up a home studio, and most recently exhibited in Illuminate at Studio Ingot, part of Melbourne's contemporary jewellery event Radiant Pavilion in 2015, and has also been invited to exhibit in the 2017 event.

## **Jo Wilmot**

Jo's professional practice since her student years at the SA School of Art in Stanley St and the Centre for Performing Arts in Adelaide has generated work across the areas of contemporary dance (One Extra Dance Theatre, SYD), mime (Australian Mime Theatre SA), puppetry (Sue Harris Puppets SA), set design (Australian Dance Theatre SA) and ceramic and jewellery design. She has also taught in many of these areas, working with urban and remote aboriginal communities, children of all ages, the elderly, and those with physical and mental disabilities.

Jo was awarded the Harry P Gill Memorial Award at the completion of a Bachelor of Applied Arts degree from Uni SA in 2011 and has found her place in the more quietly performative genre of art jewellery. A three year tenancy at Zu Design, followed contributing to exhibitions in the Zu Design Gallery. This was followed by an Arts SA funded Mentorship with Catherine Truman at Gray Street Workshop in 2014 and contribution to group exhibitions in their gallery space.

Emerging from such a broadfield of arts practice, Jo's work in the genre of art jewellery embraces a vast new globally aware language that questions the processes and value of all materials that are part of a diminishing resource. Whether trawling the burnt landscape for the transformational effects of fire, casting elaborate thumbprint swirls from fallen gums, exploring vortices, casts of casts, she claims that the ritual performative act of clearing off the debris around an idea and finding its essence is what seeds the soul. Often finding an object's presence involves materialising what is absent.

Jo's work is included in many private collections, the Art Gallery of SA (acquisition SA Ceramic Art Award) and the QLD University of Technology.