

ALEX BRAY - CERAMICIST
www.alexbray.com.au/about

About the Work:

Alex's sculptural ceramic work explores the tension between the built and organic environment; the re-emergence of the natural world over human construction; as well as providing a more personal outlet to deal with loss, death and grief and the rebirth following loss. Alex is interested in how the collision between humanity, technology and nature plays out in modern and contemporary dystopian literature and film, foreshadowing realities driven by political cowardice, corruption and inaction. The works of Bosch and Brueghel inform the motifs of decay and carnage in her work, which conversely reference the decorative porcelain ware created in the 18th and 19th centuries for middle class aspirational England..

Her current body of work is rendered largely in fine porcelain, evoking the fragility yet resilience of the natural environment. Works are both visually abundant, dystopian worlds collide with industrial ephemera and more delicately abstract, using organic motifs of kelp forms and Australian native flora conjuring the idea of the environment in flux. Intricate detail is made coherent through simple glazes and slips in a largely monochromatic palette. The work pushes the boundaries of material integrity, working the clay body finer and thinner to enable its activation by light, creating a luminous

ethereal quality suggesting the ephemeral and the liminal – the space between light and dark; existence and disappearance.

This sense of disappearance is further evoked by Alex's death masks – wall pieces created in black porcelain and glazed to an oil-slick iridescence. These haunting relics question ideas of death or collapse as a precursor to rebirth.