

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

About the Artist:

Alex is a ceramic artist living and working in Sydney on Gadigal land. She recently completed a BFA at the National Art School, following a long-held interest in the fine arts as both a viewer and maker. Living for several years in both London and Paris gave Alex the opportunity to be steeped in centuries of artistic practice, a sense of awe and beauty that she now brings to her celebration of the Australian environment. Alex's maximalist visual language is inspired by European Baroque and the medieval hellscapes of Bosch and Brueghel, abundantly accessible during her time in Europe.

Decades in legal practice, working pro bono on behalf of refugees, environmental groups, homeless charities and mental health services have made Alex consider the fragility of existence and civilisation, an overriding theme in her practice.

Working with vulnerable people living on the fringe of society, be it through mental health issues, lack of legal status or lack of stable housing revealed a liminal state where belonging is questioned and certainties are lost. A recent serious illness has further caused Alex to consider the random, chaotic and precariousness of life. Notions of uncertainty, flux and loss are central to her work.

Alex draws influence also from a childhood in the milling cities of Norther England, where decorative porcelain was collected as a luxury display item from manufacturers such as Coalport and Spode. Her early dislike for the knickknackery of her mother and grandmothers has turned to a fascination with the idea and purpose of decoration in the female space.

Alex reads extensively, fiction with a dystopian bent and scientific and philosophical material that examines our responsibilities to our planet and technological innovation that may yet save us.