

Alex Bray

Still Lives





Alex Bray, NAS, 2026
Photograph courtesy of the artist

Alex Bray

Still Lives

1 – 25 September, 2026



King Street Gallery
on William

Still Life with Wings, 2025, porcelain, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin,
58x40x5-12cm [depth variable]



Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, 2026,
porcelain, stoneware (vase), porcelain slip, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin,
70x40x12-20cm [depth variable]





Alex Bray studio shot, 2026
Photograph courtesy of the artist

Artist Statement

Alex Bray

There is room for a lightness to lift us, even as I explore darker themes of personal and universal loss and absence. Lightness is a sensibility that pervades my work, and I am exploring it both materially and conceptually. I work in fine porcelain, high-fired to luminosity and finished with lustrous opalescent reflective glazes. This is how the light gets in.

Italo Calvino, in his essay 'Lightness', talks about 'the search for lightness as a reaction to the weight of living', understanding our need for joy to live positively. Calvino is seeking lightness without escapism amidst chaos in our environmental, political and social systems. My work seeks to explore how to deal with challenging times without losing sight of the things that bring joy to life.

This sense of lightness is evident in my contemporary still lives, treading the line between playful exuberance and contemporary commentary.

These works exemplify this duality, leaning on 17th Century allegorical use of flowers, fruits and domestic objects while updating these motifs to reflect modern societal concerns, particularly environmental degradation, consumerist excess and horribly, the reality of war.

This tension between the human and natural world is central to my work; nature is allowed to reflower over the built environment, often overwhelming the constructed to a point of obscurity. Motifs of consumerism, war, technology and mass production are feminized through the use of pearlescent flora, evoking the protective elements of nacre/mother of pearl.

This reflects the deep ecology perspective of unification between humans and nature, expressing the conviction that we are all one, an ethics of co-existence, which brings about a respect and empathetic engagement with nature.

The work both speaks to the troubling realities of the contemporary world and suggests an antidote, a form of resistance through engagement with beauty.



Alex Bray studio shot, 2026
Photograph courtesy of the artist

Song For Guy, 2026, porcelain, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin,
45x45x25-32cm [depth variable]





Dr Georgina Cole

on the compositions of Alex Bray

Alex Bray's new sculptural works for the exhibition *Still Lives* use porcelain to express the freedoms and fears of modern life. Within lyrical floral arrangements lie discarded soy sauce fish, crumpled blister packs, lipstick tubes, and flattened tin cans, the rubbish of consumerism mingling with the energetic growth of flowers. The iconic shape of the Hermes "Birkin" handbag is re-made in porcelain moulded from segments of kelp liberally strewn with blossoms and leaves. Other works take the form of natty lapelled jackets, which stand upright but empty, the interior space where a body might have been now adorned with petals. These works speak of environmental collapse and personal loss in a language of delicacy and lightness. The porcelain shimmers with glossy, nacreous glazes. Light seeps through minute gaps and cracks. It sparkles and gleams, animating everything. Bray's delicate compositions, pale and glinting, are full of hope. Though the funereal wreaths, the guns, and grenades, point to human pain and strife, they are no match for the proliferating abundance of life.

Dr Georgina Cole, Lecturer in Art History and Theory at the National Art School.

How The Light Gets In, 2026,
porcelain, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin, 60x50x5-14cm [depth variable]



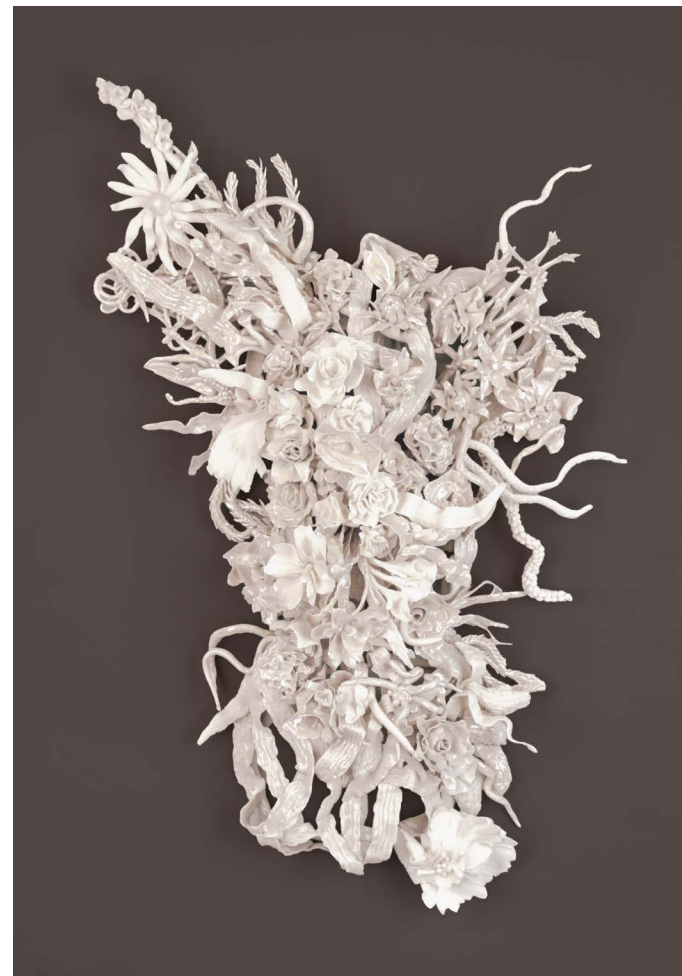
Museum of Broken Things, 2026, porcelain, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin,
[in perspex box, board, linen], 80x72x5-15cm [depth variable]

Book of Babel, 2026,
porcelain, glaze, lustre, 55x14cm [diameter]



Good, Different, 2026, porcelain, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin,
35x42x20-25cm [depth variable]





Hot Mess, 2026,
porcelain, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin, 60x45x5-14cm
[depth variable]

Still Life with Trash, 2026,
porcelain, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin, 60x36x4-12cm
[depth variable]

Alex Bray studio shot, 2026
Photograph courtesy of the artist



Alex Bray studio shot, 2026
Photograph courtesy of the artist



Landscape and Memory: Undulate,
2026, porcelain, glaze, lustre,
100x60x8cm [depth variable]



Dying of the Light, 2026,
porcelain, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin, 40x45x30-35cm
[depth variable]



Guns 'n' Roses, 2026,
porcelain, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin, 50x30x15-25cm
[depth variable]

A Quality of Loss, 2026, porcelain, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin,
60x42x8-12cm [depth variable]





Where Do I Plug This Thing In?, 2026,
porcelain, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin, 58x48x3-10cm
[depth variable]

Where D'Ya Go?, 2026,
porcelain, glaze, lustre, epoxy resin, 50x45x20-35cm
[depth variable]

White Tower, 2026, porcelain, 46x15-17cm
[depth variable]



Alex Bray

Selected Biography

Born

1966 London, UK
Lives and works on Gadigal land, Sydney, Australia

Education

2024- Masters Visual Arts, National Art School (NAS), Sydney
2019-2023 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Ceramics Major, NAS, Sydney

Solo Exhibitions

2026 *Still Lives*, King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
2025 *Strange Creatures*, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
2024 *Afterglow*, King Street Gallery on William

Group Exhibitions

2026 *Meroogal Women's Art Prize*, Meroogal Historic House Museum, NSW (*Museums of History NSW in partnership with Bundanon and Shoalhaven Regional Gallery*)
2025 *Hadley's Landscape Art Prize*, Hobart, TAS
Gosford Art Prize, Gosford Regional Gallery, NSW
In 100 Years, presented by Fletcher Arts, Melbourne Design Week, VIC
2024 *Ignite Women for Change*, Sydney University, Sydney, NSW
Cooma Cultural Centre, Cooma, NSW
The Scenic Route, King Street Gallery on William, Sydney
A Fresh Perspective, Gallery Lowe and Lee (now LNL Gallery)
2023 National Art School Bachelor of Fine Arts Graduate Show
NAS Stairwell, Ceramics, National Art School (NAS)
2021 *NAS Stairwell*, Drawing, National Art School
Cooma Cultural Centre, Cooma

Collections & Awards

2025 The Women's Club acquisition
2023 *National Association of Visual Artists Ignition Award*, NAVA
2023 *The Sabbia Mentorship and Solo Exhibition Award*, for National Art School Graduates

Bibliography

2025 *Day, Bek. Ceramic Artist Alex Bray's Porcelain Works*
Belle a Hidden Resilience, Travel Insider, Mar 28



A comprehensive CV for
Alex Bray is available on
the King Street Gallery
on William website
kingstreetgallery.com.au/artists/alex-bray



Alex Bray work in progress, 2026
Photograph courtesy of the artist

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Cover:

The Unbearable Lightness of Being, 2026,
(comprised of *Song for Guy*; *Guns 'n'*
Roses; and *Good, Different*)



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King Street Gallery

on William

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