

# CANTERBURY POTTERS ASSOCIATION

25th ANNIVERSARY  
RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION

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## Robert McDougall Art Gallery

Christchurch City Council

New Zealand



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## FOREWORD

The Robert McDougall Gallery is honoured to present the Canterbury Potters' Association Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Exhibition.

The Association has, since its founding in 1963, been an influential force amongst those which have advanced ceramics in New Zealand.

Ceramic is a craft in which New Zealand craftspeople have consistently achieved work of strong individuality, professionalism and high standards of aesthetic excellence, qualities that have brought them international acclaim. The growth of pottery into a kind of folk industry has been one of the astonishing developments in the arts of our country over the last two decades. That this vital activity has taken place without seriously compromising quality or willingness to experiment is due in no small measure to the exceptional values safeguarded and projected by individual potters supporting organisations like the Canterbury Potters' Association.

The Robert McDougall Gallery extends its warm congratulations to the Canterbury Potters' Association on achieving 25 years of fruitful existence and wishes it well for the next quarter century.

John Coley  
Director

Robert McDougall Art Gallery

We are indebted to the Robert McDougall Art Gallery for curating and hosting this retrospective exhibition in our 25th anniversary year.

We wish also to pay tribute to all those potters in Canterbury who have devoted their time and their skills to others in the craft. By so generously sharing their knowledge with others and giving their time in administration, they have built the Association to its present strength. Only a few can be represented in this exhibition but we are grateful to all.

Jim Pollard  
President

Canterbury Potters Association



First Canterbury Potters Association Exhibition at Hays Ltd September 1964

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CANTERBURY POTTERS' ASSOCIATION

The Canterbury Potters' Association, including the West Coast, was formed in 1963 to co-ordinate the common interests of potters in the area. It was formed at the suggestion of Helen Mason who realised, after the staging of a National Pottery Exhibition in Christchurch and the visit of Bernard Leach in 1962, that Canterbury needed a properly constituted body to deal with potters' exhibitions and visiting overseas and New Zealand potters.

Foundation members of the association — 60 in its first year — made mostly earthenware. This was taught at both Risingholme Community Centre and the Crafts Centre in Springfield Rd. Studio pottery was in its infancy and most information was obtained by trial and error or from Bernard Leach's "A Potter's Book" which was the only comprehensive book on pottery-making available at that time.

Many Canterbury potters changed from making earthenware to the higher-fired stoneware mainly under the influence of Yvonne Rust, who had built an oil-firing kiln at her studio of design in 1963. Here she taught and organised pottery classes and schools. The first studio porcelain was made in Christchurch in 1969.

The Canterbury Potters' Association had no home until January 1976 when it moved into its present rooms on the old university site which had become the Christchurch Arts Centre. Previously the association had met in rented buildings and held committee meetings in the homes of its members. Some classes were held in high schools and some given by regional groups. As well as weekly classes, schools were held at Risingholme, the Crafts Centre, Yvonne Rust's studio and Studio 393.

Internationally renowned potters were brought to Christchurch for the Arts Festivals and by the New Zealand Society of Potters.

Canterbury potters were strongly influenced by Bernard Leach and his friend and associate, Shoji Hamada, who demonstrated pottery making, firing and glazing at the Studio of Design during the Pan Pacific Arts Festival in 1965. This cemented the Japanese influence of simple and unassuming pots which stressed a restrained aesthetic quality lacking the excessive decoration associated with expensive art objects. A similar philosophy was portrayed by guest potters Takeichi Kawai in 1964, Michael Cardew in 1968, Urugami in 1973 and by Harry and May Davis who came to live in New Zealand and exhibited their work in Christchurch in 1964. They were also guests at the Canterbury Potters' Association's first

exhibition, which was held in the Hay's Gallery in 1964. The work of Canterbury Potters was selected for this and all subsequent exhibitions. Since 1965, these have been held in the Canterbury Society of Arts Gallery, frequently with guest exhibitors.

In 1970, the Canterbury Potters' Association became an incorporated society.

When the Canterbury Potters' Association moved into the Arts Centre in 1976, a subcommittee was formed to run the "Rooms". The library of pottery books which had been collected since 1969 and housed at Studio 393 was installed and the Rooms opened for members on Fridays. As well, members could rent keys and use the facilities at any time. Equipment, including wheels and a pugmill, was donated and collected and classes were started in the third term of 1976. Fifty-two pupils were enrolled and an electric kiln installed. Monthly meetings were held, with demonstrations and lectures. As well as regular classes, the association was able to arrange weekend schools several times a year given by experienced overseas and New Zealand potters.



Trinket Box Paul Fisher

Collection Robert McDougall Art Gallery

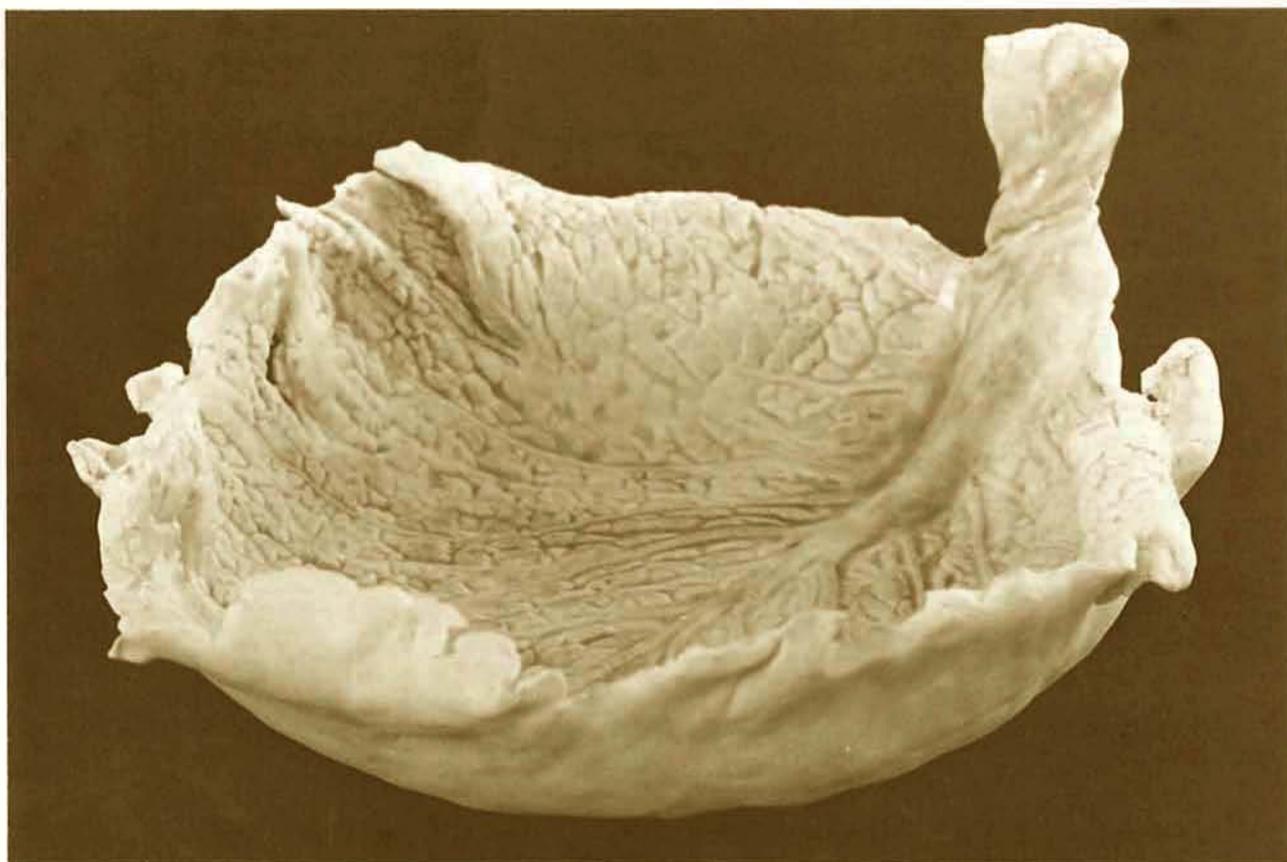
In February 1977, a part-time secretary/manager was appointed to attend to the business of the association. A newsletter has been published over the years by members of the committees. For some years, Canterbury Potters' News also featured in the Canterbury Society of Arts Newsletter. Today the C.P.A. Newsletter is incorporated in the Canterbury Potter magazine, a monthly publication giving members news of past, present and future events.

Membership has increased to approximately 250, including eleven affiliated regional groups some having more than 100 members each.

Since the early years of the association when pottery-making was a novelty and crowds flocked to view and buy at exhibitions, pottery has become an accepted way of life. New Zealand now is said to have more potters per head of population than any country in the world.

The Canterbury Potters' Association is affiliated to the New Zealand Society of Potters, and the rigorous selection for membership up until 1981 improved the standard of work of Canterbury Potters, who worked to achieve these high standards. The C.P.A. has staged a number of national exhibitions in Christchurch. These have given Canterbury Potters and the public an opportunity to see what is being done in the rest of New Zealand. The trend has changed from the Japanese influence to become more internationally orientated. At the end of 25 years we see more individual expression and a wider diversity of techniques and approaches to the handling and firing of clay.

Rosemary Perry



Leaf Pot David Turner Collection Robert McDougall Art Gallery

# Catalogue

- 1 4 Goblets Earthenware  
Electric Fired 80 x 65 mm diameter  
Meg Anderson c. 1967  
Private Collection
- 2 Bottle Earthenware  
Fired to 1070° C 500 x 95 mm  
Aina Apse 1987  
Private Collection
- 3 Sculptural Piece Stoneware  
Woodfired 262 x 250 mm  
Raewyn Atkinson 1982  
Private Collection
- 4 Plate Stoneware  
30 x 230 x 230 mm  
Phyl Barr 1986  
Collection of the Artist
- 5 Sculptural Form Stoneware  
Oil fired 338 x 163 mm diameter  
Nola Barron Purchased 1971  
Collection: Robert McDougall Art  
Gallery
- 6 Ceramic Sculpture Stoneware  
Anagama Fired 410 x 250 mm  
Gita Berzins 1984  
Collection of the Artist
- 7 Jar Earthenware  
Electric Fired 145 x 130 mm  
Betty Blair 1976  
Private Collection
- 8 Ceramic Sculpture Stoneware  
Fired to 1300° C 1010 x 430 mm  
David Brokenshire 1962  
Private Collection
- 9 Slab-Built Box Stoneware  
Salted firing 240 x 175 mm  
Grant Campbell 1979  
Private Collection
- 10 Jar Stoneware  
Reduction fired in gas kiln  
Averil Cave 1983  
Private Collection
- 11 Slab Pot Stoneware  
Anagama Fired 420 x 200 mm  
Sally Connolly 1985  
Collection of the Artist
- 12 Shino Trinket Box Stoneware  
100 x 240 mm  
Brian Cooke 1979  
Collection: Canterbury Museum
- 13 Jar Stoneware  
Pit fired 200 x 200 mm  
Valerie Crichton 1984
- 14 Plate Stoneware  
Reduction Fired — L.P.G. Gas  
360 mm diameter  
Ann Davie 1986  
Private Collection
- 15 Ceramic Painting Earthenware  
Electric fired 305 sq. mm.  
Gennie de Lange 1974  
Collection of the Artist
- 16 Bowl Stoneware  
Electric Fired 99 x 302 mm diameter  
Frederika Ernsten  
Collection: Robert McDougall Art  
Gallery
- 17 Bottle Stoneware  
Oil fired  
Lawrence Ewing 1980  
Private Collection
- 18 Trinket Box Stoneware  
Oil fired 98 x 83 mm  
Paul Fisher  
Collection: Robert McDougall Art  
Gallery
- 19 Plate Earthenware  
260 x 50 mm  
Nora Flewellen 1982  
Collection: Canterbury Museum
- 20 Plaque Stoneware  
Multifired 515 x 355 mm  
Mary Forrest 1988  
Collection of the Artist
- 21 Cathedral Pot Stoneware  
Reduction Fuel Fired 365 x 280 mm  
Denys Hadfield 1979  
Private Collection
- 22 Peninsula Hillscape IV  
Porcellaneous Stoneware  
212 x 485 mm  
Phillip Hadfield 1980  
Collection: Robert McDougall Art  
Gallery
- 23 Slab-Built Box  
Raku Fired 185 x 195 mm  
John Hazeldine 1981  
Private Collection
- 24 Lidded Jar Stoneware  
Gas Fired 120 x 80 mm  
Robyn Hetherington 1984  
Private Collection

- 25 Fish Plate Earthenware  
Electric fired 35 x 230 mm  
Doris Holland c.1968  
Collection of the Artist
- 26 Winejar Stoneware  
Oil fired 330 x 185 mm  
Bett Ivin c. 1975  
Collection of the Artist
- 27 Spherical Pot Porcelain  
140 mm diameter  
Esme Lyon 1980  
Collection: Canterbury Museum
- 28 Bowl Stoneware  
235 x 60 mm  
Hazel McCaughan 1971  
Collection: Canterbury Museum
- 29 Teapot Stoneware  
Gas fired 135 x 240 mm  
David McMillan 1986  
Private Collection
- 30 Teapot Stoneware  
Reduction Fired — Oil Kiln  
135 x 215 x 140 mm  
Barbara Morgan 1980  
Private Collection
- 31 Thrown form Stoneware  
Coal fired  
Freda Newfield
- 32 Casserole Stoneware  
Electric Fired 150 x 162 x 230 mm  
Joyce Oliver c. 1975  
Private Collection
- 33 Plate Porcelain  
Reduction fired in electric kiln  
Diameter 280 mm  
Rosemary Perry 1979  
Collection of the Artist
- 34 Bowl Stoneware  
180 x 70 mm  
Christa Pettigrew 1983  
Collection: Canterbury Museum
- 35 Moulded dish Stoneware  
188 x 177 x 35 mm  
Wyn Reed 1974  
Collection: Canterbury Museum
- 36 Were Wolf Jug Stoneware  
375 x 220 mm diameter  
Yvonne Rust 1980  
Collection: Robert McDougall Art Gallery
- 37 Tall Pot Stoneware  
Electric fired 380 x 115 mm  
Margaret Ryley c.1981  
Private Collection
- 38 Jar Stoneware  
L.P.G. Gas fired 140 mm Height  
Raynor Scandrett 1986  
Collection of the Artist
- 39 Lidded Jar Stoneware  
Salted firing 220 x 170 mm  
John Sepie 1983  
Private Collection
- 40 Bowls Porcelain  
Electric Fired  
44 x 98 dia; 51 x 113 mm diameter  
Irene Spiller 1972  
Collection: Robert McDougall Art Gallery
- 41 Bird Stoneware  
210 x 100 mm  
Joy Swafford 1988  
Collection of the Artist
- 42 Vase  
Raku Fired 210 x 180 mm  
Gaynor Thacker 1988  
Collection of the Artist
- 43 Pairs of Birds  
Sawdust fired 80 x 70 mm  
Rosemary Thompson 1988  
Collection of the Artist
- 44 Plate Stoneware  
340 x 70 mm  
Warren Tippett 1976  
Collection Canterbury Museum
- 45 Bowl Earthenware  
22 x 90 mm  
Mori Tothill 1975  
Collection: Canterbury Museum
- 46 Group of 3 Jars Stoneware  
Oil fired  
335 x 80; 360 x 135; 225 x 128 mm  
Michael Trumic 1974/75  
Private Collection
- 47 Leaf Pot Porcelain  
Electric Fired 93 x 255 x 222 mm  
David Turner  
Collection: Robert McDougall Art Gallery
- 48 Bowl (Bizenware) Stoneware  
Wood Fired 134 x 105 mm diameter  
Rex Valentine 1977  
Collection: Robert McDougall Art Gallery



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- 49 Teapot Stoneware  
Reduction Fired — L.P.G.  
Gas 270 x 200 mm  
Ngaire Van Grondelle 1987  
Collection of the Artist
  
- 50 Platter Stoneware  
Oilfired 50 x 360 mm  
Robert Wagoner 1978  
Collection of the Artist
  
- 51 Jug Stoneware  
Oil fired 242 x 190 x 176 mm  
Denise Welsford  
Collection: Robert McDougall Art  
Gallery
  
- 52 Teapot Stoneware  
Woodfired 162 x 130 mm  
May Wright 1983  
Private Collection



Were Wolf Jug Yvonne Rust  
Collection Robert McDougall Art Gallery

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## Acknowledgements

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