

Exhibition Review

MY CUP OF TEA

by Lyn Baines

Sunday the 24th May was the opening of an Exhibition of Contemporary Ceramic Design by Simone Braund & Ingrid Tufts. *My Cup of Tea* was sponsored by the Cancer Council of Victoria, as part of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, the City of Box Hill and the Box Hill Community Centre. The exhibition comprised cast, thrown and hand built works in porcelain.

This was a very special event to attend because of the care and detailing in staging this show from the Chamber music, to the Madeleine's served with the tea, even the display for the afternoon tea service was an installation in itself. A recipe was supplied for the Madeleine biscuit, complete with an Article entitled 'The Way the Cookie Crumbles, on how much did Proust know about Madeleine's' by Edmund Levin posted on the web in May 2005.



'toast & tea' installation
Slip cast porcelain & Vintage toaster
Ingrid Tufts & Simone Braund 2009



'polycups'
Slip cast porcelain beakers
Simone Braund 2009



Simone and Ingrid are past students of Box Hill Institute Ceramic's Diploma and a debut for a paired Exhibition. Sue McFarland opened the show for her ex-students and she said 'felt ably qualified' to speak on the subject of tea as she had just returned from the Tea Bowl Festival in Korea, the originator of the tea bowl. Her opening speech illuminated the History of the taking of tea and inherent rituals, with emphasis on sharing and contemplation.

The beautiful graphics by Ingrid explain that the Exhibition was inspired by Marcel Proust's 'remembrance of things past' with a collection of work that reflects their current practice and interests in the Studio. Simone and Ingrid's focus lay with the utilitarian object with a special emphasis on the vessel and all things tea and the partaking of same.

Both artists' investigation of form came together with 2 collaborated works, 'Toast and Tea' and 'A Light Bulb Moment' Installations. These quirky pieces could take the mantle of frivolous or profound and offered food for thought. Toast & Tea comprised a much loved metal toaster of Turquoise accompanied by toast of slip cast porcelain, complete with plate and cha accompaniments. 'The Light Bulb Moment' stated the obvious with a sequence of porcelain slip cast light bulbs of varying shapes and sizes, an indulgence in pure whimsy.



'my cup of tea' oriental matt teaset
Wheel thrown porcelain
Ingrid Tufts 2009



'remembrance' Kitchenware
Wheel thrown porcelain
Ingrid Tufts 2009



'A lightbulb moment'
Slip cast porcelain
Ingrid Tufts & Simone Braund 2009



'sprang into being'
Slip cast porcelain
Simone Braund 2009

The show demonstrated a concerted design investigation of containers in all its forms, from teapot, bottle, and vase to green tea cup.

Some of Simone's work with the use of nostalgic and romantic ancestral wedding day stenciled imagery and text on beakers and vessels was a favorite. The pastel Glaze and gracious language used in reporting wedding events of decades ago, was a unique spin for Simone to utilize and made these works compelling.

Ingrid is last years Pat Emery Award winner and her work displayed a development in Design and execution. She chose to exhibit a number of "sets" and they were particularly strong.

Her special theme of Proust scripted decals on pieces particularly her 'remembrance' works was most enjoyable.

Both artists are to be congratulated for this show and I look forward to future designs of their work.

Lyn Baines, Publicity Officer



'dancing chickens' Kitchenware
Wheel thrown porcelain
Ingrid Tufts 2009



'wedding day'
Hand built porcelain beakers
Simone Braund 2009



Simone & Ingrid 2009