

ANN ROBINSON ONZM

Biography

Ann Robinson was born in Auckland and completed a Diploma in Fine Arts at the University of Auckland in 1980. Her innovative glass creations have received major national and international acclaim. Robinson was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2001.

In 2006 she received the American Glass Society's Award for Lifetime Achievement and was awarded an Arts Laureate by the Arts Foundation of New Zealand in 2004. Robinson was also the recipient of the 2002 *John Britten Award* for Contribution to Design.

Following the completion of her diploma, Robinson joined the established studio of Sunbeam Glass works and became a partner with two others. It was during this period that Robinson developed a method of casting glass, the 'lost wax casting' method, which led to her receiving many awards such as the Phillips Glass Award in 1984 and 1986, and the Winstone Biennale Award for Craft in 1987.

The lost wax glass casting process (also known as *cire perdue*) is a modified version of bronze casting. A wax blank is formed by pouring molten wax into a plaster base mould. This wax blank is then modified and reinvested in a second mould, made of refractory materials – that is material which can withstand a long period in the kiln at high temperatures. After the wax is burnt out, the cavity is filled with molten glass. The glass-filled mould is then slowly cooled to room temperature. Larger pieces can require up to three weeks cooling and one week finishing.

The colours and shapes of the flora and fauna of the outdoors influence Robinson's bold cast glass pieces, with native New Zealand plants and trees constantly providing inspiration to the artist. The ever changing weather patterns and the sharp clear quality of New Zealand's light creates an understanding and perception of colour, which she transforms in her vessels.

The way in which each of Robinson's sculptures absorbs and emits light transforms these inanimate objects into living things, reflecting the play of light and shadow in the natural world. Her mixture of materials, which includes up to 45% lead crystal, contributes to the work's luminosity and intensity of colour.

Robinson's works are held in both private and public collections, such as the Victoria and Albert Museum, the National Gallery of Victoria, Stradtmuseum, Auckland Museum, Te Papa and the Christchurch Art Gallery. She has had several solo and group exhibitions throughout Australia, New Zealand and the United States. In 1998 her achievements were honoured by a major survey exhibition of her works, initiated by the Dowse Museum in Wellington.

ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

ANN ROBINSON CV

ACADEMIC HISTORY

1980 Diploma of Fine Arts, Auckland University, Auckland, NZ

HONOURS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, COMMISSIONS, APPOINTMENTS

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| 2006 | Life Time Achievement Award, Glass Arts Society of America. |
| 2006 | Waitakere City Arts Laureate Award |
| 2004 | Arts Laureate Award. The Arts Foundation of New Zealand |
| 2003 | Guest Speaker: Northlands Glass Conference of CGA |
| 2002 | Elected recipient of the D.I.N.Z. 'John Britten Award' for Contribution to Design. |
| 2001 | Awarded the Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (O.N.Z.M.) |
| 2001 | Guest speaker: Conference 'Transparency in Glass', Victoria & |
| Albert | Museum, London. |
| 2000 | Faculty; Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington, USA |
| 1996 | Faculty; Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington, USA |
| 1991 | Faculty; Pillchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington, USA 'Treasures from the Underworld' – commission for New Zealand Expo exhibition, Seville, Spain. Equipment Grant, Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council |
| 1990 - 1993 | Guest Faculty; Carrington Polytechnic, Auckland, New Zealand |
| 1992 | Guest Faculty; Canberra School of Art, ACT, Australia |
| 1987 | Winstone Biennale Award |
| 1986 | Phillips Glass Award Travel Grant to USA, Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand |
| 1984 | Phillips Glass Award |
| 1983 - 1984 | Equipment Grant, Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council |