



Virginia Leonard

Prepared for: Auckland Art Fair 2018

Prepared by: Matthew Nache, Director of PAULNACHE

Proposal date: 23-27 May 2018

Image: VIRGINIA LEONARD, Tippy Toes, Installation Contemporary, Sydney Contemporary 2017, courtesy of PAULNACHE, photo by Jacquie Manning.



Virginia Leonard, Valium and Cocoa (studio installation), 2016, Clay, 730 x 500mm, Private Collection, Sydney

VIRGINIA LEONARD

Virginia Leonard (b.1965 Auckland, New Zealand) graduated with a Master of Fine Arts from Whitecliffe College of Arts & Design in 2001. Virginia's focus is working with clay and her work is a response to the broken parts of her body.

She writes: "I don't call it a Spoiled Foot, even though it's a good summary. I call it a rotten foot. Picked up and then discarded flying like Aphrodite and then bashed into the brick wall. I come limping home relishing in my attention. I am pain intolerant.

But I am not her I am the blacksmith potter waging war in the backwaters. Trying my hand at this and that. Turning, turning, hiding my limp behind the iron and fire. I am only Vulcan, only Vulcan.

My works are self-portraits that address my bodily scarring and chronic pain. Chronic pain has no biological value, modern medicine cannot reliably treat chronic pain, it lacks both language and voice. The language of my clay making is my attempt to rid my body of trauma and reduce my level of chronic pain."

Winner of the Molly Morpeth Canady Art Award, Whakatane (2012) and winner of the Walker and Hall Waiheke Art Award, Waiheke Art Gallery, Waiheke (2011). Her recent exhibitions include 'Tippy Toes' Installation Contemporary curated by Chief Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia Rachel Kent and Assistant Curator Megan Robinson for Sydney Contemporary Art Fair (2017); Solo installation at artgenève, Geneva, Switzerland (2018); Spring1883, The Windsor Hotel, Melbourne AUS (2016); Christmas Time Nurses, PAULNACHE, Gisborne NZ (2017); The Effects of Crack, Objectspace, Auckland (2014) and EXODUS, The Vivian, Matakana (2018). Virginia won the Merit Award at the Portage Ceramic Awards, Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery, Auckland (2015); a consistent Finalist in the Wallace Art Awards and was a Finalist in the National Contemporary Art Award, Waikato Museum. Leonard was the recipient of the Ceramic residency at Guldagergaard, Denmark (July 2017); and was curated into a group exhibition at Galerie Wolfsen, Aalborg, Denmark (August 2016).

She lives and works in Matakana, NZ and is represented by PAULNACHE Gallery, Gisborne, New Zealand.

<http://www.paulnache.com/virginia-leonard>

<http://virginialeonard.co.nz/>

* Leonard is currently developing a new series of ceramic works intended to be launched at Auckland Art Fair 2018. Images are yet to be published and detailed. Prices range between NZD\$5,700–9,500 each.

CV

Born Auckland, New Zealand

Education/Positions:

2003-2004 Mentor, Masters Programme, Whitecliffe College of Arts, Auckland

2001-2002 Teacher, Under Graduate, Whitecliffe College of Arts, Auckland

2001 Master of Fine Arts, Whitecliffe College of Arts, Auckland

1990 Bachelor of Arts, Whitecliffe College of Arts, Auckland

Upcoming exhibitions:

Auckland Art Fair, Solo Installation, PAULNACHE, May 2018

Melbourne Art Fair, Solo Installation, PAULNACHE, August 2018

TRESOR, Taste Contemporary, Basel, Switzerland, September 2018

Solo Exhibition, Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami, US, October 2018

Solo Exhibition, Two Rooms, Auckland, October 2018

2018

artgenève, Solo Installation, Taste Contemporary, Geneva, Switzerland

Exodus, The Vivian, Matakana, New Zealand

Nowhere to Somewhere, PAULNACHE, Gisborne, NZ 2018

2017

Pulse Art Fair, Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami Beach, US

Installation Contemporary, Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney, Australia

Solo exhibition, Galerie Wolfsen, Denmark

Finalist Wallace Art Awards, Auckland, New Zealand, Travelling Show

Residency, Guldagergaard - International Ceramic Research Centre, Denmark

Farvestralende Keramik, Guldagergaard, Denmark

40, Galerie Wolfsen, Denmark

Village huha, PAULNACHE, Gisborne, New Zealand

2016

HANDBUILT made in clay, Two Rooms, Auckland, New Zealand

Christmas Time at Middlemore, Corbans Estate Arts Centre, Auckland, New Zealand

Finalist Wallace Art Awards, Auckland, New Zealand, Travelling Show

Spring 1883 PAULNACHE, The Hotel Windsor, Melbourne, Australia

MUD, Galerie Wolfsen, Denmark

Finalist Molly Morpeth Canaday 3D Award, Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi - Whakatane Library and Exhibition Centre, Whakatane, New Zealand

Curiosity: 5 Artists / 5 Artworks / 5 Tools, Wallace Gallery, Morrinsville, New Zealand

Finalist Waiheke Small Sculpture Prize, Waiheke Art Gallery, Waiheke, New Zealand

Graffiti Lounge, PAULNACHE, Gisborne, New Zealand

STAINED SHEETS

2017, Clay, glazes and resin, 180 x 45 x 45cm, Finalist in the 2017 Wallace Art Awards



PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST

Virginia Leonard, originally published in Art Collector, Issue 79, January-March, 2017 – IMG X Kallan Macleod

