

## 2019 Dobell Exhibition Grant

The 2019 round of the Dobell Exhibition Grant was assessed on 15 October 2018 by a four member panel consisting of:

- Michelle Belgiorno, Trustee, Sir William Dobell Art Foundation
- Katrina Cashman, Assistant Director/Senior Curator, Mosman Art Gallery
- Paula Latos-Valier, Art Director, Sir William Dobell Art Foundation
- Rachel Arndt, Gallery Programs & Touring Exhibitions Manager, Museums & Galleries of NSW

The panel assessed six applications from regional galleries and arts centres across NSW. A varied and competitive round of stimulating exhibition proposals was received.

After much deliberation and discussion the Panel unanimously decided to award the Dobell Exhibition Grant of \$40,000 to Newcastle Art Gallery for their exhibition *SODEISHA: Connected to Australia*.

The Panel felt that this exhibition and the proposed public programs exemplified the aims of the grant program which is to support artists, extend public appreciation and engagement with the visual arts and expand curatorial skills and creativity. This proposal demonstrates these aims by creating great opportunities for the artists involved as well as re-invigorating the Sodeisha ceramics collection held by Newcastle Art Gallery at a time when artisanal craft is seeing a resurgence in popularity and relevance.

The Panel was highly impressed by all six applications and especially praised the range of innovative exhibition concepts proposed. They also praised the direct involvement of artists in all proposed exhibitions through residencies or public programming. The panel wished to remind applicants to clearly articulate the rationale and curatorial framework in the written application and clearly demonstrate how the project will be achieved by writing a logical and detailed project plan.



*The Dobell Exhibition Grant is supported by the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation and managed by Museums & Galleries of NSW.*

## 2019 Dobell Exhibition Grant Recipient

## Newcastle Art Gallery - *SODEISHA: Connected to Australia*



In 1981 Newcastle Art Gallery was gifted the largest collection of Japanese Sodeisha ceramics in the southern hemisphere. The Gallery has invited ten contemporary Australian and Japanese ceramic artists to exhibit their work in response to this collection, including originating member of the Sodeisha movement Satoru Hoshino who will deliver workshops and a major installation for the exhibition. The exhibition aims to re-contextualize this significant collection through the inclusion of living contemporary ceramic practitioners from Australia and Japan who will feature alongside the collection to form a dialogue between this important post war avant-garde movement and contemporary ceramic arts practice today.

*SODEISHA: Connected to Australia* will be held in early 2019, curated by Newcastle Art Gallery and supported by two guests curators, Kevin White and Satoru Hoshino, who will work with the Australian and Japanese artists respectively.

Australian artists will include Alterfact Studio, Penny Byrne, Juz Kitson, Julie Bartholomew, Kenji Uranishi & Kristina Chan. From Japan artists include Takashi Hinoda, Satoru Hoshino, Yusaku Ishida, Rokube Kiyimizu, Hideo Matsumoto. Feature pieces by the founding members of the Sodeisha group from the Newcastle Art Gallery's Sodeisha collection will provide the touchstone for the project.

Sodeisha literally translates from Japanese to English as 'Crawling through mud' and the Newcastle Art Gallery will also commission a performance by Newcastle-based dance company Catapult inspired by the 1955 performance *Challenging Mud* by Kazuo Shiraga (1924-2008). Shiraga was a member of the Kyoto based Gutai Artists Association who challenged ideas about the relationship between elemental materials and the human body. Kazuo's seminal and physically demanding 1955 performance has long been recognised as having a close association with the Sodeisha movement.

In addition to this performance a comprehensive suite of public programs including masterclasses, artist-led workshops and forums and regional clay community activities will support the exhibition and draw in new audiences for this ancient and contemporary art form.



For more information about the Dobell Exhibition Grant please contact:

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Images: BYRNE Penny, *#EuropaEuropa* 2017, dimensions variable, blue and white porcelain figurines, cups, plates, bowls, gravy boats, epoxy resin and enamel paint, Artist collection, image Matthew Stanton; URANISHI Kenji, *Pleated bowl* 2009, 12.2 x 20.0cm porcelain with inlaid slip and celadon glaze, Newcastle Art Gallery collection; HOSHINO Satoru, *God and his medium* n.d, 56 x 23 x 28cm, hand-built form, glazed white clay, Newcastle Art Gallery collection *Challenging Mud* 1955 performance by SHIRAGA Kazuo at Ohara Kaikan Hall Tokyo.