



Media Release

Embassy of Australia
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Embassy of Australia welcomes innovative porcelain artist

The Gallery at the Embassy of Australia will present *High Fired: Diana Williams: Ceramics*, the first U.S. solo exhibition for noted Australian artist Diana Williams, from 31 January to 28 March.

The works in Williams' *High Fired* series are porcelain slip casts inspired by artillery shells. The series emerged at a time when she was trying to understand the impact of the military on her own life: In 2006, Williams' son followed in her husband's footsteps and joined the Royal Australian Navy.

"My son's decision to follow my husband's naval career was difficult to accept in the current world climate of constant strife and shelling," Williams said.

The artist explored her feelings and the dual notions of destruction and creation—the metallic power of military hardware and the maternal instinct to protect loved ones from harm.

"I transform the inherently aggressive shape of the artillery shell by carving and painting each vessel, enhancing it with natural symbols of beauty, courage and regeneration, like the lotus flower, the cocoon and the Flanders poppy," Williams said.

Williams' work was also profoundly influenced by her time in Jingdezhen, in the southern Chinese province of Jiangxi. For centuries, this region has been a leading centre of fine porcelain craftsmanship. From 2004 to 2007, Williams worked as artist in residence in the studio of master sculptor, Professor Liu Yuan Chiang, Williams continued to develop her skills in moulding, casting and carving porcelain.

Born in Germany in 1958, Williams migrated to Melbourne with her family at the age of two. She is an active member of the international arts community, a former president of the Australian Capital Territory Porcelain Painting Association, and the founder and president of the ACT Onglaze Artists Association. In 2001 Williams coordinated *100 Years of Porcelain Art in Australia*, which was exhibited at the Canberra Museum and Gallery.

Diana Williams' work is held in numerous collections including the Australian War Memorial, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Beijing Government Collection, Shanghai Government Collection, and private collections in Germany, Switzerland, France, China, the United States and Australia. She has taught porcelain painting techniques in Germany, Switzerland and China.

WHAT: *High Fired: Diana Williams: Ceramics*

WHO: Diana Williams, Australian artist
WHERE: The Gallery at the Embassy of Australia,
1601 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington DC
WHEN: 31 January-28 March 2008

Hi-resolution images available upon request