

VANNER
GALLERY



BREATHE
CALM AND CONTEMPLATION IN CERAMIC AND PAINT
Jane Sheppard + Robert Woolner
9 Sep - 29 Oct 2022



Jane Sheppard

The meditative simplicity of coiling is fundamental to my practice. Clay lies at the heart of the global human experience and coiling is one of our most ancient ways of manipulating our environment. It is slow and deeply immersive, fostering a prolonged space of contemplation. Working with very basic, minimal tools I can work in the way of our earliest ancestors and explore form in the way they did, through my hands and eyes.

Using smokefiring as a decorative process allows the clay to breathe. There's a beauty about this teamwork with the elements, bringing simple alchemy.

Keeping the spirit of each vessel through each process is important. I work intuitively, applying decoration in response to the character of each form. Some hold narrative whilst others are gentle explorations into form, space and energy. To me they're a way of finding the stories that hang in the air; the resonances that linger. I hope they offer places of contemplation – a stopping point for conversation and review of our connection with the earth.



Robert Woolner

I make abstract paintings and constructions that aspire to be both quiet and contemplative. Abstraction provides a place where I am able to explore the layered nature of experience and find meaning in the matter and substance of paint and other materials. I often work in series, fascinated by the process of making and the continuous struggle with chance and change, and I use techniques that allow me to make radical alterations to each work through the use of construction and collage.

I use mixed media that include canvas, board, card and texture paste, often incorporating sand, stone and marble dust, oxides and other materials mixed with both oil and acrylic paint. Working on a number of pieces at once allows me to bypass some of the difficulties presented by overpainting and drying. Work accumulates slowly on the studio wall and may be considered for long periods of time, possibly a year, until no further changes can be made in my search for a complete and satisfying whole. My aim is to order the images to achieve a rightness, stability and calm.



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