



Robert Knottenbelt

Robert Knottenbelt has worked continuously within the area of Australian contemporary glass since 1975. A co-founder of the National Body of Glass Artists, AUSGLASS, with Maureen Cahill & Warren Langley, the early part of his sculptural career was seen to be controversial. After 18 months at the Jam Factory Adelaide SA, he built 2 hot glass workshops as part of artist cooperatives before moving to Victoria in 1983. He established his private studio, 'Britannia Creek Glass' in the Upper Yarra Valley outside Melbourne in 1984, making a range of blown hot glass vessels. From 1988 – 2000 these decorative studio lines were developed together with his glass artist partner Anna Amiet. Unlike many glass artists he has led a secluded lifestyle.

Knottenbelt's sculptural output over this 30 year period is now recognized as falling into 3 distinct periods. Assemblage (1977 – 1988), CAD CAM Waterjet Cut plate glass sculptures (1987 – 1997) where he was a world pioneer, and now his current body of Glass Castings (2002 -). His interests have always been wide ranging: covering literature, science, politics, and the environment. Exhibiting consistently, his work is held in public and private collections within Australia and overseas.

The pieces in Gaffer Studio Glass Gallery's 2006 catalogue relate to Robs long standing environmental interests. In the examples shown on the opposing page he is being seen increasingly as a 3D abstract painter. The much coveted 'the whale-tooth sagas' are based on the ancestor of modern toothed whales, poetic thoughts about being in those ancient seas 40 million years ago. The large vertical castings 'a vanishing in the peripheral eye', are a separate group of works on changes occurring in marine intertidal zones. The group 'the bonerock canticles' are about ancient water in an ancient landscape, Australia. Clients may wish to note most of these current castings have gone directly into private collections, but these works are also eminently suited for corporate collections and intimate high end designer/ architectural private apartments.

Qualifications

1971 BA Auckland University, New Zealand
 2005 MA (Fine Art) (Research), RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

Awards

1991 Australia Council Fellowship

Public Collections: (Selected)

Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington USA
 Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan
 Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf, Germany
 Musee des Art Decoratifs, Lausanne, Switzerland
 National Glass Collection, Wagga Wagga Regional Art Gallery, NSW, Australia

Exhibitions: (Selected)

1985, 88, 94 'World Glass Now', Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo, Japan
 1992 'Sculptures de Verre Contemporaines', Musee des Arts Decoratifs, Lausanne, Switzerland
 1995 'Ausglass', Ebeltoft Glass Museum, Denmark
 1997, 98 SOFA Chicago, ILL USA
 2000 'At the Edge', Australian Glass Art, Germany & United Kingdom
 2005 'Australian Contemporary Studio Glass', Hong Kong, Singapore
 2006 'Art Taipei 06', Taipei, Taiwan

Publications: (Selected Books only)

1981 'Glass in the Modern World', Tankosha, Japan
 1995 'Australian Studio Glass – The Movement its Makers and Their Art', Dr Noris Ioannou, Craftsman House
 1997 'Masters of Their Craft – Tradition and Innovation in Contemporary Australian Decorative Arts', Dr Noris Ioannou, Craftsman House, Australia
 2002 'request, response, reaction – the designers of Australia & New Zealand', Stephen Crafti, Images, Australia
 2006 'The Dutch - The Move Down Under 1606 – 2006', Ed. Dr Nonja Peters, CCH Australia, Wolters Kluwer

